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MONDAY, MAY 21, 1990/SHAWWAL 26, 1410 AH

22 PAGES 150 FILLS

Amiri pardon for political detainees

'Fed from birth on a diet of hatred'



The bodies of three Palestinians are being removed by medics from an Israeli ambulance after an attack by a damaged Israeli which killed seven Palestinians and wounded nine others as they waited at a so-called 'slave market' in Rishon Letzion, for day-labour in Israel. (Reuters wirephoto)

All cases dropped: notable Kuwaitis laud gesture

KUWAIT, May 20, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah has instructed responsible authorities to shelve all cases against a number of Kuwaiti citizens and former deputies who have been detained recently.

Official sources told Kuna today that the Amir has received a number of notable Kuwaiti men who expressed to him their appreciation for his fatherly initiative which

reflects his true feelings towards the Kuwaiti people.

"No matter how the sons of Kuwait differed over parliamentary life, they remain exceptionally loyal to Kuwait," the group of notables told the Amir.

According to the sources, His Highness's order reiterates the spirit of the one Kuwaiti family and came at a time when Kuwait is passing through a period necessitating inter-

nal unity and national understanding.

The Amir, the sources said, has ordered that all cases against those who were arrested recently, including former deputies, be closed.

Meanwhile, the general prosecution last night released detainees Jassem Abdul Aziz Al Qatami and Dr Abdullah Fahd Al Nefessi on bail of KD300 and KD500 respectively, Kuna learnt today.

Massacre as gunman opens up on Gaza labourers

Israeli slaughters seven Palestinians

Troops kill 7 more as Arabs erupt in anger

RISHON LETZION, Israel, May 20, (Agencies): An Israeli who was dishonourably discharged from the army shot to death seven unarmed Palestinian labourers and wounded 11 others today. The incident provoked major rioting in which seven more Arabs died and hundreds were injured.

In all, it was one of the bloodiest days since the Palestinian uprising began 29 months ago and could rekindle the violence which had been declining in recent months. Before today's violence, a total of 688

"Imposing the curfew on the rioters was a difficult period in which most of the casualties occurred."

The dead ranged in age from 14 to 30. In one case, Arab reporters said one youth was fatally wounded when he tried to stab a soldier.

Hospitals and United Nations' clinics in Gaza said 691 Palestinians were treated for injuries from live ammunition, rubber bullets, beatings and tear gas. Thirteen others were wounded, two seriously, by gunfire in the West Bank, hospital said.

Israel radio said 11 soldiers were injured.

The scope and intensity of the rioting was reminiscent of the early days of the intifada, or uprising when tens of thousands took to the streets in December 1987.

The army called up reinforcements, and Arab reporters said Palestinians were barred from entering Israel to prevent a retaliatory raid.

The West Bank troop Commander, Maj Gen Yitzhak Mordechai, appealed on the radio in Arabic for Palestinians to remain calm despite the "tragic act by a deranged individual."

Palestinian leaders blamed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing government for creating a climate of anti-Arab sentiment and called for international help in assuring the safety of the 1.7 million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

"The Israeli government is responsible for the (gunman's) hatred and crime," said a leaflet by the pro-PLO underground.

This government feeds its own people from their birth until their death with hatred against our people and their rights for independence and return," it said.

Shamir went on Israel Radio to condemn the attack and called on Palestinians to ignore agitators who sought to incite riots.

"We were all disgusted by the terrible crime that happened today. It is a cruel crime without any justification," he said.

The act was condemned by a broad spectrum of Israeli politicians, and the 13-member cabinet considered a proposal to

Quake rocks south Sudan

KHARTOUM, May 20, (AP): A major earthquake rumbled through desolate jungles of southern Sudan early today near the civil war-torn region's largest city, which is crammed with displaced people.

Although with a reading of 7.5 on the Richter scale the tremor was capable of causing widespread damage, none was reported in messages from the area.

In Nairobi, Bob Koepf, a Lutheran World Federation official, said a pilot ferrying relief supplies to Juba returned this evening and said the city had not been affected.

Juba, southern Sudan's largest city, is 60 miles (96 km) southwest of the quake's reported epicentre.

He said there was some "negligible" damage but no injuries in Juba. "It wasn't very heavy at Juba, the epicentre apparently was in the swamps and the ground may have just soaked it up," Koepf said.

Seismologists said the quake's epicentre was 700 miles (1,120 km) south of the capital, Khartoum. That is in sparsely populated territory controlled by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army like most of the southern countryside outside major population centres.

Relief workers in two rebel-controlled villages in the area, Bor and Torit, were reported to have messenger controllers in Nairobi that the earthquake caused no damage.

Seles beats Graf

WEST BERLIN, May 20, (AP): Monica Seles defeated top-ranked and top-seeded Steffi Graf 6-4, 6-3 today to win the \$500,000 German Open and hand the West German her first loss after 66 consecutive victories.



Bridal collection '90

Nadia Comaneci, gold medalist gymnast in the 1976 Montreal Olympics, smiles as she models a gorgeous wedding dress during the Bridal Collection '90 held at the International Garden and Greenery Exposition in Osaka on Saturday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ahead of Yemens merger

Marx statues removed

ADEN, May 20, (AP): South Yemen shed its Marxist decor today, pulling down all the statues of Marx and Lenin which used to adorn its public squares just days ahead of its merger with conservative North Yemen.

South Yemen was the Arab world's only avowedly Marxist state after it gained independence from Britain in 1971. But with the perestroika of its main

allies in the Soviet Union, South Yemen also began opening up. The process accelerated after YSP Secretary-General Ali Salem Al Beidh pledged himself last November to a merger with pro-Western North Yemen within a year.

Al Beidh and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh have been speeding up their merger plans. See also Page 9

Bush envoys in Pakistan talks

'Restrain Kashmir rhetoric'

ISLAMABAD, May 20, (Agencies): The United States today urged Pakistan and India to tone down their war of words over disputed Kashmir before it ignites another armed confrontation.

"Our major objective is to help both sides avoid a conflict over Kashmir... and to begin the sort of political dialogue which would not only reduce tensions but lead to a peaceful and permanent settlement," said a statement issued by deputy National Security Adviser Robert Gates and John Kelly, assistant US Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan assured the envoys during a 90-minute meeting that Pakistan did not want another war with India and that his country was giving only moral — not military — support to the people

in India-held Kashmir, said Abu Fazole, additional secretary of the Foreign Ministry.

Ishaq Khan said Pakistan had suggested several proposals to try to defuse tensions along the border but India had rejected them, Fazole said.

The Pakistani President also asked Washington's help in securing the Kashmiris' right to self-determination and called for the UN Security Council to play a part in finding a peaceful solution, he said.

The United States is seeking to defuse border tension and military posturing over Kashmir, a former princely state claimed by both. But Washington does not want to act as a mediator in the lingering dispute.

"Rather the US as a friend of both Pakistan and India hopes to contribute to a reduction in tension," said the US statement. (Continued on Page 2)

Tehran backs summit

TEHRAN, May 20, (Kuna): In a significant policy shift, Iran today expressed support for a projected Arab summit to be hosted by its arch foe, Iraq, and said the summit would drive a wedge into the United States' policy in the region.

A comment, broadcast on Radio Tehran today, voiced backing to the summit, scheduled for May 28 in Baghdad, and said the high level gathering is expected to demonstrate "a real popular consciousness" and to "crystallise an ideological thought that would adopt independent policies and stances leading to complete boycott of the West."

Radio Tehran said the summit is expected to blatantly expose the United States' involvement in the Jewish exodus and "the international consent" to transport the new settlers to occupied Palestine.

Quota talks fail

RIYADH, May 20, (AP): The first direct talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia in two years failed to break their deep animosity over the quota system for the annual Islamic pilgrimage, diplomats here and the Iranian media reported today. Iran's foreign undersecretary Mohammed Ali Besharati was in Riyadh for two days last week during which he held lengthy talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, said the diplomatic sources. (See Also Page 9)

Mubarak to order general elections next August

CAIRO, May 20, (Kuna): President Hosni Mubarak will issue a decree on June 2 dissolving the People's Assembly and order fresh general elections early next August, according to well-informed political sources here today.

Well-placed sources of the ruling National Party today said the new elections would be organised on individual basis rather than the previous system of party tickets.

The step follows an Egyptian High Court ruling yesterday nullifying election laws of the

current People's Assembly as unconstitutional but said bills passed by the assembly are valid.

Explaining the step, the sources indicated that the Egyptian authorities were determined not to extend life of the present assembly beyond the 2nd of next month lest laws passed by it after the date will be rendered invalid, according to the court's ruling.

The court's verdict comes into effect on the next day of its publication in the official gazette, or next June 8.

Meanwhile, leaders of Egypt's eight opposition parties started preparatory meetings of their political cadres to plan for contesting the new parliamentary elections.

According to the nullified system, elections for the 448-member assembly were made on basis of legal party tickets. No party was allowed in the assembly unless it secured an average of 12 per cent of the national vote.

Only one independent lawmaker from each constituency is allowed to run on individual basis.



Vassiliou leaves

The President of Cyprus Georges Vassiliou left this evening at the end of his two-day visit to Kuwait.

The Cypriot President was seen off by HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, The Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah, Minister of the Amiri Diwan, cabinet members and senior state officials.

Before leaving Kuwait's airspace, the Cypriot President and the Amir of Kuwait exchanged cables of appreciation and well wishes.

Vassiliou, yesterday denied his country was playing any role in facilitating the emigration of Soviet Jews for settlement in Israel.

(See Page 11)

485 left in fray

KUWAIT, May 20, (Kuna): The number of candidates who have pulled out of the National Council polls fray, scheduled for June 10, today reached 19 persons.

So far 485 candidates are left to contest for the four-year interim National Assembly. Fifty seats are to be occupied by elected deputies while another 25 will be appointed by HH the Amir.

Pakistan likely to mediate

BELGRADE, May 20, (Kuna): A projected direct dialogue between Iraq and Iran would possibly be held in Pakistan, according to press reports here today.

The official Yugoslav news agency Tanjug, today quoted informed Iranian sources in Tebriz as saying that Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto had touched off during her recent visit to the Iranian capital, the subject of mediation between Iraq and Iran to break the deadlock in peace negotiations between the two sides.

Weather

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High water: 9:00 am, 9:00 pm
Low water: 2:00 am, 3:00 pm
Sunrise: 4:53 am
Sunset: 6:37 pm
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Kuwait: 45°C 113°F
Abu Dhabi: 41°C 106°F
Faisal: 44°C 111°F
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 29°C 84°F
Abu Dhabi: 21°C 69°F
Faisal: 27°C 81°F
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Faisal: 36 per cent

DAY BY DAY

THE import cargo terminal at Kuwait Airport is said to be in need of added security.

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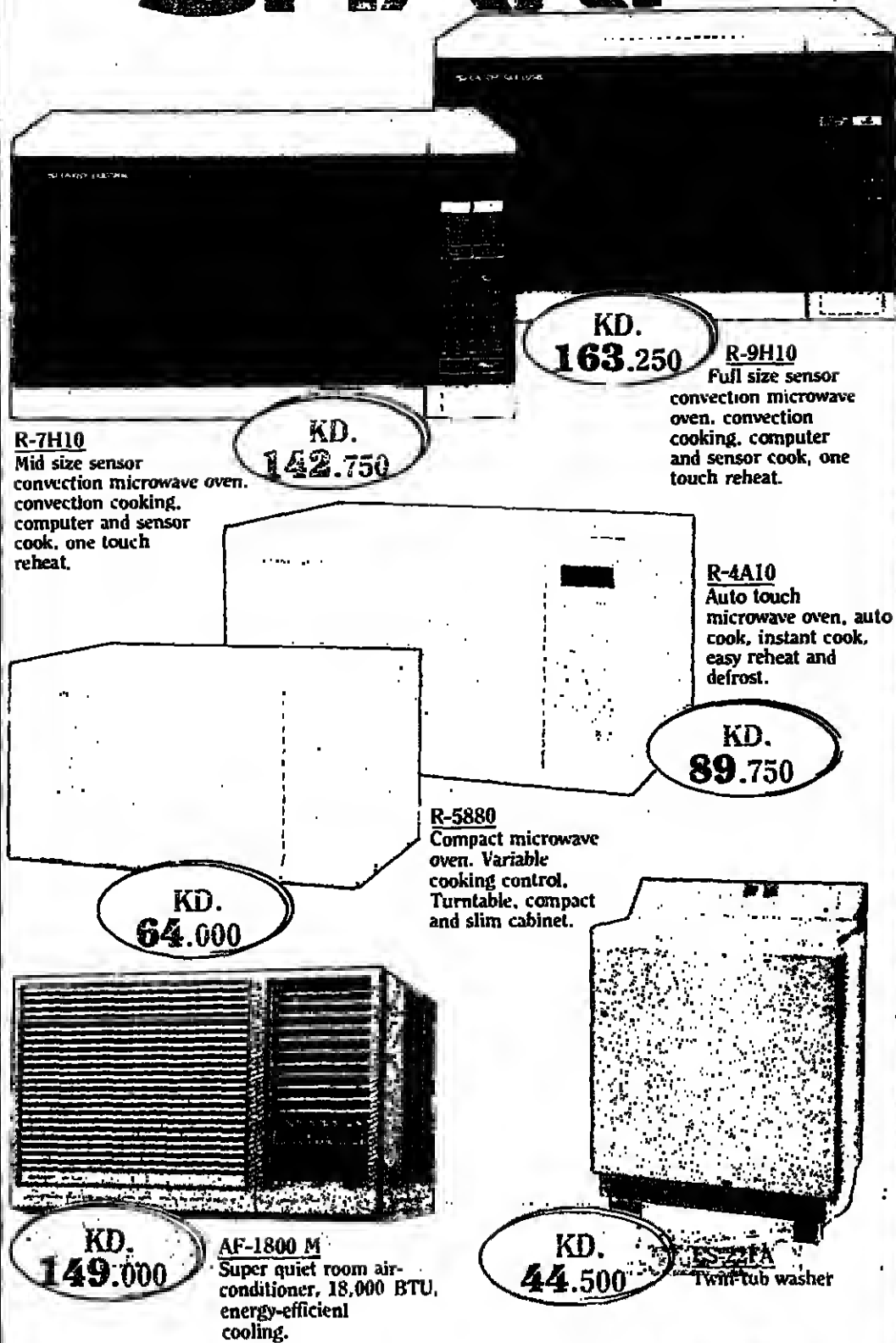
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INTERNATIONAL

Tough fight for US bases in Philippines

MANILA, May 20, (Reuters): A tough fight is looking between the Philippines and the United States over the future of American military bases in the country after five days of exploratory talks that highlighted deep differences.

Both sides staked out strong bargaining positions, using blunt language that sometimes went beyond what is usually heard at the negotiating table.

The ending of the cold war has strengthened the American hand by reducing its need for the large bases, while opinion in the Philippines — a former US colony — is divided between those who support the US presence and those determined to end what they see as a relic of colonialism.

The powerfully-built chief US negotiator Richard Armitage said he was frustrated and disappointed by the Philippine emphasis on cash compensation for the bases, rejecting what he termed "cash-register diplomacy."

The Philippines set a time limit on future negotiations by formally notifying the United States that its lease for Clark Air Base, Subic Bay naval station and four smaller facilities would expire on September 16, 1991.

"If we don't have a new agreement by that time, then the United States will have to withdraw," said Philippine spokesman Rafael Alunan.

"Time pressure is on everybody," said US spokesman Stanley Schrager. "The agreement expires soon and time is running out, and we'll just have to move as expeditiously as possible." A date for the new talks will be fixed later.

Armitage stated flatly that the US presence in the Pacific did not depend on the Philippine bases, and warned the United States could pull out of its military facilities unless Manila based the alliance on more than money.

Loss of the bases could undermine US support for President Corason Aquino at a time when she is faced with a factionalized

NPA rebels to target Manila businessmen

ANGELES, Philippines, May 20, (Reuters): Communist guerrillas who killed two US airmen in the Philippines last week said today their next targets would be local businessmen who supported the continued presence of US bases.

"Big businessmen, openly opposing the revolutionary movement will be next. They will be dealt with accordingly," Arnel Miranda, a New People's Army spokesman, told reporters by telephone in this city 80 km (50 miles) north of Manila.

The NPA warning followed a statement by local

businessmen condemning the murder of US airmen James Green and John Rayben, shot dead as they left a hotel near Angeles last Sunday.

The two men, on temporary duty at Clark Air Base nearby, were killed on the eve of exploratory talks on the future of US bases in the Philippines.

Miranda, from the NPA's Mariano Garcia brigade, earlier claimed responsibility for the murders and the killing of three US servicemen outside Clark in 1987.

only in monetary terms, the

American military presence can-

not be sustained," he declared.

"And it will be gone, not

because of a shortfall in US sup-

port for democracy and econ-

omic development for the Philip-

pines, rather, it will be gone

because in a strategic sense,

money alone cannot cement

friendships or confirm allian-

ces."

Philippine Defence Secretary

Fidel Ramos, who supports a

phase-out of the US facilities by

1998, said yesterday there should

be closer regional defence co-

operation between Southeast

Asian countries to make up for

the anticipated American with-

drawal.

But speaker of Congress

Ramoo Mitra immediately put

the spotlight back on the cash

issue, by saying the United States

could keep the bases so long as

Washington agreed to a higher

compensation package as part of

a new treaty.

OIC meet likely to postpone

JEDDAH, May 20, (AP): The 19th regular conference of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference to be hosted by Egypt is expected to be postponed from mid-June to the end of July, diplomatic sources reported yesterday.

Diplomats in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh, speaking on condition they not be named, said the postponement was made at the request of Senegal, and that Dakar had proposed July 28 as the new starting date for the conference.

Kashmir

(Continued from Page 1)

Pakistani Kashmiris

Go to polls today

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, May 20, (Reuters): Kashmiris in Pakistan vote for a new state government tomorrow at the end of a bitter campaign while their compatriots in India fight on for independence.

It will be "arrow" versus "horse" in the vote for the legislative assembly of Azad (free) Kashmir where Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is trying to oust a regional party from power.

Arrow is the election symbol of the nationally-ruling PPP and horse of state President Sardar Abdul Qayyum's All-Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference (AJKMC) Party, backed by Pakistan's opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA).

The symbols are printed on the ballot paper alongside the name of their respective candidate because most of the more than 1.6 million voters cannot read.

Eight political parties and more than 100 independents are in the run for 40 assembly seats at stake.

But the main contest is between the PPP and the AJKMC who have waged a bitter mouth-log campaign which ended at midnight yesterday.

"The PPP is a satanic clique," Qayyum, a follower of late military President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, told his party's final election rally in the state capital Muzaaffarabad on Friday.

The Muslim-led revolt in the two-thirds of Kashmir controlled by India has been the main campaign theme with each party promising to outdo the other to help the militants.

its voice against what is happen-

ing in Kashmir."

Benazir, on the 6th leg of a tour aimed at rallying Islamic support for her country's dispute with India over Kashmir, said that despite Arsh links with India, she was satisfied with her talks in the countries she visited.

"We know these countries have relations with India," she said of Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, North Yemen and Egypt.

"However, we have been extremely encouraged by the understanding they have shown of Pakistan's position."

Asked if any of the countries she visited pledged military or financial support in case an armed conflict with India broke out, she said: "We have not been seeking financial or military assistance."

"The people of Kashmir need political support, they are extremely brave and courageous, they have the character and guts to take on the Indian forces themselves."

Pakistani officials said the US

envoys also discussed efforts to

bring a peaceful end to the war in

Afghanistan, on Pakistan's

border. Pakistan is the base

of the US-backed rebels fighting

to overthrow the Soviet-suppor-

ted government in Afghanistan.

US officials said the two super-

powers were closer to an

agreement that would end the

bloody stalemate but doubted it

would be ready before the US-

Soviet summit.

Fears of another war are being

fanned by a Muslim secessionist

campaign that had faded and

flared over the past 43 years in

radio-held Kashmir. More

than 400 people, most of them

militants or their supporters,

have died since Indian troops

launched the latest and harshest

crackdown on Jan 20.

India accuses Pakistan of arm-

ing and training the militants.

Pakistan denies the allegation

and says India is trying to quash

a legitimate movement for self-

determination.

Shooting

(Continued from Page 1)

pay compensation to the victims.

The clandestine uprising leadership called for a three-day protest strike. Twelve prominent

activists met with Western diplomats including US Consul-General Phil Wilcox and announced a hunger strike.

They demanded a UN Security Council meeting, international investigation of Israeli occupation practices and "immediate international protection" for the 1.7 million Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied areas.

In Tunis, a PLO statement called the shooting a "massacre" and claimed it was the premeditated act of several Israeli soldiers.

Israeli police and Palestinian survivors said the gunmen acted alone.

Survivors said the attacker was dressed in army pants and a black jacket when he arrived at the roses junction eight kilometres (five miles) south of Tel Aviv. Palestinian labourers gather there every morning to wait for day work, usually in construction.

Survivors said the gunman arrived about 6.15 am (0315 GMT) and approached a group of about 50 labourers from the occupied Gaza Strip. He ordered

them to sit in a line and hand over their identity cards when a white Peugeot 504 stopped to let off more Arab workers.

Fakri Kawara, 27, of Khan Yunis, said the gunman told the Arab driver to restart the car and leave the engine running.

"Then he killed him on the spot," said Kawara.

The man then started shooting at those sitting on the ground. Kawara said the gunman finished his first magazine and while inserting another the surviving Arabs ran for cover in the underbrush.

"After he killed everyone who was sitting there he started shooting into the air," Kawara said.

Khalil Abu Amsha, 30, a worker who was in the car and was wounded in the left arm and leg, said from his hospital bed that he thought the gunman was a soldier because he wore army pants.

"He said sit by your friends. We sat. He said take out your (identity) cards. He said, 'do you know why I stopped you?' We said no. He said, 'good that you don't know.'"

Police said the deliberate shooting of unarmed Palestinian labourers was the gravest such incident in memory.

Police said the suspect is a 21-

year-old man who had been dis-

missed from the army as

"unsuitable for military service"

in December 1988.

■ Egypt today expressed "deep

sorrow" over the killing of eight

Palestinians by an Israeli civilian

and said the killer should be pun-

ished in order to prevent repeti-

tion of "the painful incident."

■ Jordan today condemned the

shooting of Palestinian

labourers in Israel and urged

world organisations and human

rights activists to provide Pal-

estianos with international

protection.

■ Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser

to the PLO leader, today held

Israel totally responsible for the

massacre perpetrated earlier

today in central Israel against

Palestinian workers.

■ The massacre of eight Pal-

estinians in Israel dominated the

newscasts of television and radio

stations in France with many

quoting the Palestinians' general

delegate calling for international

effort "to stop the murderous

hands of Israel."

■ A British Foreign Office

spokesman said that the UK

government regretted any

violence taking place in the

Israeli occupied territories.

SA police probing child sacrificing rituals

JOHANNESBURG, May 20, (AP): Police said today they were investigating allegations that satanic cults sacrificed as many as 11 children in recent years as part of devil worshipping rituals.

Police Capt. Leonard Solms said several self-confessed ex-satanists had detailed incidents where babies were bred for the purpose of the ritual murders, today's newspapers reported.

The ex-satanists told Solms they knew of 11

instances of child sacrifice during the past five years.

The former cult members said the satanic groups also engaged in sexual acts with children, bestiality and the killing of animals, Solms said.

Police said today they had been investigating the allegations for months, but that no arrests had been made.

The alleged incidents described by the ex-satanists took place in the Cape Town area, according to police.



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Hubble space telescope snaps star cluster

Historic first picture of heavens

WASHINGTON, May 20, (UPI): The Hubble space telescope was to snap its historic first picture of the heavens today, an important step toward launching the observatory's long-awaited probe of the universe, officials said yesterday.

The telescope's wide field planetary camera is expected to take a one-second exposure of a star cluster today afternoon after engineers complete last-minute tests on the 12-ton observatory's guidance system.

Jim Elliott of the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland, said the first images from the telescope will be received at about 1:49 pm (1749 GMT) and processed images would be received at about 2:35 pm (1835 GMT) and processed images would be received at about 2:55 pm (GMT).

The subject of the "first light" picture will be the 3 billion-year-old star cluster known as NGC 3532 located about 1,500 light years from earth in the constellation Carina. A light year is about 5.8 trillion miles (9.3 trillion km).

"We're all kind of excited," NASA astronomer Edward Weiler said. "We're not looking forward to getting first light out of the way."

The black-and-white picture, which officials had initially hoped to take about a week after the telescope was placed into orbit 381 miles (613 km) above Earth April 25, is intended as a test and not to produce any new discoveries.

To the public it's become a historical event. We look at it as an engineering test," Weiler said. "We will probably learn nothing of any scientific value. None of us expect anything of scientific value."

Because the \$1.5 billion telescope has not been completely adjusted, the image's quality is expected to be only about equal to that of an equivalent telescope based on earth on a good night.

Heart-liver transplantee back in hospital

WHITE SETTLEMENT, Texas, May 20, (AP): Doctors suspect Stormie Jones, the world's first recipient of a heart-liver transplant is rejecting her second transplanted liver, and plan to examine her at a Pittsburgh hospital, a spokeswoman said.

Stormie, 12, was scheduled to leave her home in this Fort Worth suburb today for children's hospital in Pittsburgh after her liver enzyme count shot to dangerously high levels, said family friend Theresa Millikan.

Hospital spokeswoman Lynn McMahon said in a statement that doctors suspect Stormie may be rejecting the second transplanted liver she received Feb 20.



Wild at Heart draws gasps

DAVID Lynch's "Wild at Heart," a tale of violence and lusty romance in the American South, drew gasps from the audience Saturday at the Cannes Film Festival.

Body parts seemed to have a habit of detaching in bloody ways in the film, which proved too much for some spectators at the Palais des Festivals to stomach.

In the picture, American director David Lynch poses with Italian actress and model Isabella Rossellini after the screening of their film "Wild at Heart" in competition at the 43rd International film festival in Cannes on Saturday. (Reuter wirephoto)

'Matj', 'Tilai', feature rebellion

CANNES, May 20, (AP): The quest for human dignity, even at the cost of rebellion, is a common theme of entries for the Soviet Union and Burkina Faso shown at the 43rd Cannes Film Festival.

The Soviet film "Matj," (mother), is a 3-hour, 20-minute epic, based on a Gorky novel.

A co-production with Soviet and Italian companies, directed by Gleb Pavlov, it revolves around a young man who joins a socialist group during Czarist times, is imprisoned and tried for his subversive acts.

The movie shows pain and tenderness as his mother, at first alarmed by her son's rashness, finally comes round to the cause and martyrs herself for his sake.

The beginning concentrates on the degradation endured by factory workers, as Pavel Vlassov's father takes his misery out on his family by quaffing vodka and his wife.

When Pavel (played by Viktor Rakov) grows up, he decides to fight the system.

He attends meetings and reads subversive texts, but never commits violence in his quest for better working conditions.

"Tilai," directed by Burkina Faso's Idrissa Ouedraogo, is an 80-minute tale of rebellion against tradition and authority.

The plot involves a young man, Saka, who returns to his village to find his fiancée, Nagma, has married his father.

The young people, still in love, sleep together, and the enraged father demands that his other son murder his own brother — a traditional solution to what the village tradition holds to be an incestuous act.

The brother only pretends to murder Saka, who escapes into the desert, soon followed by Nagma.

Saga returns to the village when he hears his mother has died. His brother, disheartened, finally does him in after all.

It's a simple, sad tale told with much charm.

Ouedraogo, helped in producing his fourth feature film by French government money, as well as British, Italian and Swiss funds, said he worked in a simple village setting "since that's what I know best, and it was the quickest way to make a film."

"The King's Whore," directed by Austrian Axel Corti, also entered the competition for the Golden Palm Award. It is the most romantic film yet at the festival, a love story without political or sociological overtones.

Taking place in the 17th century, it portrays a young French noblewoman sent to Turin with her husband, who serves as the king of Piedmont's Chamberlain.

The king (played by Britain's Timothy Dalton) falls madly in love with the young wife, Jeanne (Valeria Golino).

Concierges boo movie directors

CANNES, May 20, (Reuters): French concierges, the formidable caretakers of apartment blocks, massed outside the Cannes Film Festival palace yesterday to boo movie directors they blame for their unflattering image.

As the stars gathered on the palace steps for a gala performance, the concierges ceremoniously broke three booms to show their anger with a stereotyped view that they spend all day leaning slovenly on their brooms gossiping.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NAPA, California: The rivalry between Sonoma Valley and Napa Valley, the premier wine regions in the United States, took a theatrical turn when caped crusaders in black masks ordered tourists on the Napa Valley wine train to "throw that Napa stuff out the window."

The tourists instead were served Sonoma Valley wine. The caped crusaders' antics Tuesday included a daring leap off the moving train into the Robert Mondavi winery.

"Throw that Napa stuff out the window and take some of this Sonoma Valley wine," the raiders, revealing their true identity as the Sonoma Valley wine patrol.

At first, the travellers did not know what to think, but soon decided delight rather than fright was appropriate, especially when they got to sip wines in the ten-to-twenty-dollar class for free.

"When I saw those black capes I thought they were some religious cult," passenger Milli Minicelli of Oakland said.

The patrol's membership includes winemakers and others dedicated to unfettered promotion of wine from Sonoma Valley. Over the years, a hot competition has developed between the adjoining valleys. (AP)

HUNTINGTON, New York: The widow of singer Harry Chapin has settled for \$65,000 a lawsuit in which a writer accused her of interfering with publication of a biography of Chapin.

Sandy Chapin's lawyer, Tony Carro, who had maintained in court that there was no interference with the book, described the agreement Monday as settlement of a nuisance.

The writer Peter Coan, sued the Chapin estate for \$9 million in 1984, alleging that the biography he contracted to write for Pedigree Books three years earlier was suppressed because the estate threatened legal action. The book was published in 1987 by Ashley Books of Long Island.

Coan said he accepted the settlement because pursuing the case would have cost much more in time and money.

Chapin was killed in a car crash on the Long Island expressway in 1981. His widow lives in Huntington Bay. (AP)



Wasn't that just perfect

President George Bush plays to the crowd after hitting a great tee shot, May 19, at the Dearwood Country Club during the Doug Sanders Golf Tournament. The President was out for an afternoon of golf during his visit to Houston. (Reuter wirephoto)

Throws coffee on cigar user

Non-smoker fined

VANDALIA, Illinois, May 20, (AP): A 76-year-old man has been fined \$25 and ordered to do community service for throwing coffee on cigar smoker.

Veldic Kelley was sentenced Friday for his conviction on charges he threw lukewarm coffee at a man who brought a cigar into the no-smoking section of a fast food restaurant.

Circuit Judge Joseph Fribble said Kelley's conduct was "pretty childish" for a man his age.

A jury last month convicted Kelley, who was responsible for establishing a no-smoking section in the restaurant, of battery. He faced a \$1,000 fine and up to 364 days in jail.

"I'm not a lawbreaker," Kelley said after sentencing. "I don't do it to protect my health. If he hadn't let out the smoke, he wouldn't have gotten" the coffee thrown at him.

Kelley says he has a severe allergy to smoke.

SEATTLE: The nation's first plastic stamp — one that takes no baking to keep it sticking — has gone on sale through automated teller machines at Seattle area banks.

Over the next six months, 22 machines in the area will dispense the limited-edition, 25-cent stamps in a test to see whether people will buy them and if banks want to sell them, said US Postmaster-General Anthony Frank.

"We think (the) stamps represent a good idea and a technological milestone," Frank said at a ceremony Friday.

The stamps, which feature an American flag, need no moisture to stick. You simply

MANCHAC, Louisiana: Thousands of roofing nails were dropped on a stretch of superhighway and flattened at least 95 tyres on two dozen cars and trucks, deputies said.

The flat roofing nails were spread before dawn Wednesday along a stretch of Interstate Highway 55 just northwest of New Orleans.

"When we got there about 3 (am) ... there was nothing but cars with flat tyres," said Keith Monistere, who works for the State Department of Transportation and Development.

The highway was closed while workers began picking up the nails by hand. That was slow going, so a maintenance truck equipped with a powerful magnet was sent down from Baton Rouge, Monistere said.

The highway opened a few hours later.

"We don't know how the nails got there, said Chuck Reed, a spokesman for the Tangipahoa parish sheriff.

PARIS: Gerard Depardieu, star of the multi-million dollar blockbuster film Cyrano, will travel to Moscow in June to promote the film adapted from Edmond Rostand's theatre classic.

Directed by Jean-Paul Rappeneau, the 100-million-franc "Cyrano" is France's most expensive production ever, and stars Depardieu as the long-nosed dreamer who breathes his passion and poetry into the empty head of a simple soldier to woo the beautiful Roxanne.

It was Depardieu's 60th film role, and critics agreed it was his best. The film is one of France's entries in the Cannes Film Festival and some say it has a good chance to earn the coveted Gold Palm award.

OBERRAMMERGAL, West Germany: Residents of Oberrammergatal Saturday attended a solemn mass to mark the opening of the 1990 Passion Play, continuing to fulfil a 17th century vow which has brought fame, money and controversy to the Alpine village.

The opening also marked the end of a tradition and the culmination of years of heated debate among villagers.

For the first time in the play's 356-year history, the role of the Virgin Mary, is played by a married woman, 37-year-old Elisabeth Petre.

NEW YORK: Actress Paulette Goddard left New York University more than \$20 million and the papers of her late husband, novelist Erich Maria Remarque, the university said Thursday.

Miss Goddard, who died April 23 in Switzerland, endowed seven new professorships with \$1.2 million each, NYU president John Brademas said. They are in film, urban planning, creative writing, literature, European studies, languages and political economy. (AP)

Blacks stage march to protest acquittal of Mondello on murder charges

NEW YORK, May 20, (Reuter): With blacks shouting "murderers, murderers, murderers," and whites screaming "white power," 400 demonstrators marched yesterday to protest against a white youth's acquittal on murder charges in the slaying of a black teenager.

Carrying banners reading "justice for Yusuf" and "death to racism," and raising their fists in the air, the protesters marched through the predominantly white Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn, where 16-year-

old Yusuf Hawkins was shot dead by a mob of whites last August 23.

Four hundred police officers marched alongside, separating the demonstrators from 700 white residents, who lined the streets, jeering, cursing and shouting slogans at the protesters.

Police said there were no injuries or arrests.

The march was held to protest against the acquittal on Friday of Keith Mon-

dello, 19, on murder and manslaughter charges.

The case galvanised New York and when the verdict was announced, angry blacks demonstrators broke bottles, burned a flag, overturned police barricades and pounded on car bonnets, shouting, "we're going to Bensonhurst to burn it down. Burn, baby, burn."

Later, dozens of blacks marched to Hawkins' home in the mostly black East New York section of Brooklyn, shouting

"Yusuf, Yusuf" and vowing to take the law in their own hands.

Mondello, accused of being the leader of the mob, was found guilty of lesser charges of taking part in a riot and illegally detaining his victim. He faces 9 1/3 to 16 years in jail at his sentencing June 11.

"We are not trying to escalate tensions. We are trying to escalate justice," said black activist Al Sharpton at the march. "We will march until there is justice, until 30 people are indicted and go to jail."

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Flag in flames

Treadunion supporters of President Violeta Chamorro burn a Sandinista Party flag during a demonstration outside the National Assembly in Managua on Saturday. Tensions between the government and the Sandinistas rose during a public sector strike this week. (Reuters wirephoto)

Contras laying down weapons

Contrary to claims

MANAGUA, May 20. (AP): The government said yesterday that Nicaraguan rebels will continue to surrender their weapons, despite a top rebel military commander's claim to the contrary. Rebel commander Israel Galeano had said Friday the disarmament process was suspended. But a communiqué issued last night by President Violeta Chamorro said the government co-ordinator of disarmament, former rebel leader Roberto Ferrey, has received assurances from other rebel chiefs that they step up the process.

Alejandro Acevedo, a spokesman for the rebels — known as Contras — said in Miami that Galeano's statements had been "deauthorised" by the Contras' general staff.

The rebels' conflicting statements show there is a split among top officers on whether to proceed with the disarmament, which had been promised in several agreements the Contras signed earlier this year. Whether the rebel foot soldiers continue to surrender their weapons depends on which commanders have their

loyalty.

The disarmament accords helped assure a peaceful transition of government April 25 when Chamorro was inaugurated, replacing President Daniel Ortega and ending a decade of rule by the leftist Sandinista National Liberation Front.

The US-backed rebels had tried in vain for almost a decade to overthrow the Sandinistas, who lost the Feb 25 elections to Chamorro's opposition coalition.

Although the Contras agreed to disarm by June 10, only 1,084 of about 11,000 fighters had given up their weapons by yesterday, the government said.

Galeano said in a communiqué Friday the disarmament process would be halted "indefinitely, as long as the climate of uncertainty and social instability provoked by the Sandinistas persists in the country."

He was apparently referring to a paralysing Sandinista-led strike by public employees last week that resulted in the strikers winning almost everything they had demanded.

US may reveal Noriega payments

NEW YORK, May 20. (Reuters): The United States, pressured by subpoenas from lawyers defending General Manuel Noriega against drug charges, is likely to disclose how much it paid the former Panamanian strongman to work for American intelligence agencies, the New York Times reported today.

Quoting Justice Department officials involved in the case, the newspaper said release of the information would be part of the pretrial sparring in the case, set to be heard in Miami Federal Court next year.

The newspaper said the trial may also include video-taped testimony from Cuban President Fidel Castro and the appearance of American intelligence officials. "Fidel said he wants to help and is willing to do whatever he can to show Noriega is innocent," the newspaper quoted Frank Rubino, Noriega's chief defence lawyer, as saying.

Rubino said his defence strategy would concentrate on the political implications of American government actions in Panama, including the December 1989 invasion of Panama by US troops, rather than the narrower legal issues of the US case charging Noriega with being a drug dealer.

Noriega contends, according to Rubino, that he received \$11 million in payments from the US government and \$7 million from intelligence agencies of several foreign governments.

The United States has admitted it paid Noriega as an informant for years before he was indicted in Florida in 1988 on a dozen counts of cocaine trafficking and racketeering involving drugs shipments. But it has never said how much money was involved.

A government official involved in the case scoffed at the \$11 million cited by Noriega, the newspaper said. The official said the government planned to declare at a hearing in Miami tomorrow "a far lower amount" it says it paid to the former Panamanian dictator.

Mexico tipped US on tunnel

MEXICO CITY, May 20. (Reuters): Mexican authorities claim they, not US customs agents, discovered a highly sophisticated cross-border tunnel used for smuggling drugs into the United States.

Agents from Mexico's federal judicial police discovered the tunnel early on Friday and tipped off US customs agents across the border, according to a statement from the attorney-general's office released late on Friday.

"The Americans say they gave the tip-off to us, but we say we gave it to them," a spokesman at Mexico's attorney-general's office, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters in a telephone interview yesterday.

Mandela prepared to consider a truce

Klerk 'man in a hurry' to abolish apartheid

CAIRO, May 19. (Agencies): Black South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela yesterday offered the Pretoria government a truce if it took what he called serious steps to dismantle apartheid.

"We are prepared to consider a cessation of hostilities, not the end of the armed struggle," he told reporters on arrival at Cairo airport. "We are prepared to consider a truce."

Mandela is deputy president of the African National Congress (ANC), which has refused to formally end its armed struggle against white minority rule despite being legalised by President F.W. de Klerk's government in February after a 30-year ban.

"man in a hurry" to abolish apartheid.

But Mandela in Cairo dismissed the steps as not enough.

"I am not aware of any significant step taken by Mr. De Klerk which has the possibility of dismantling apartheid," Mandela said.

"What we demand is the right of every South African to determine his future. As I have put it down before, 27 years ago, I could not vote."

"Twenty-seven years later I still cannot vote" said Mandela, released in February after spending 27 years in jail for conspiring to overthrow the government.

Mandela, on a tour of North African countries, later met President Hosni Mubarak.

An aide to Mubarak, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, said the two leaders discussed the situation in South Africa and the Middle East and changes in Eastern Europe.

While in Cairo, Mandela will meet with Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat who also arrived here yesterday for talks with Mubarak.

Before coming to Cairo, Mandela visited Tripoli where he met with Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi.

Mandela, who has a grandson named after the Libyan leader, also visited Khaddafi's former two-story house which was damaged in the US bombing of Tripoli on April 15, 1986. The gutted rubble-strewn residence is a routine tour for many foreign visitors.

Mandela, asked if he planned to visit Israel, said his movement's position to a country was determined by that country's position toward the ANC armed struggle.

After talks with Egyptian leaders on bilateral relations, the situation in Angola and Mozambique and other issues, Mandela was scheduled to deliver a paper at a seminar in Cairo on the role of the so-called African confrontation states.

Foreign ministers of the "African confrontation," or frontline states — Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Congo — were expected to attend the seminar, scheduled to begin today. Delegations from Nigeria, Algeria, Mali, Tanzania, Angola and Ethiopia were also expected to attend.



The listener

South African President F.W. de Klerk listens to a question during a news conference held at his London hotel on Saturday, following his earlier meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at her country residence. (Reuters wirephoto)

His offer appeared to be aimed at seizing the political initiative from De Klerk, on a nine-nation tour to improve relations with European countries.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher congratulated De Klerk during a 90-minute meeting yesterday for taking "substantial" steps in the past year toward abolishing apartheid and said she was confident further progress would be made soon.

De Klerk told a news conference in London that economic sanctions against Pretoria were no longer relevant and described himself as a



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (right) and South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela smile to photographers as they shake hands in Cairo on Saturday. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Planes collide, 4 dead: Two light aircraft collided in flight south of London on Saturday and four people on board were killed, the civil aviation authority said.

Tree witnesses reported seeing another person leap from one aircraft as it plummeted to the ground, and one said the person's parachute only partially opened.

Police and tracker dogs searched woods near the crash site looking for the missing fifth person. Motorists on the major M25 Beltway circling London saw the Piper Cherokee and the 1930s Tiger Moth crash, then fall to the ground on either side of the highway at Upper Garton near the turnoff to Reigate, 20 miles (32 kilometres) south of central London. (AP)

Thatcher appoints: The British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has given UK Energy Secretary John Wakeham the special role of co-ordinating government information in the run-up to the next general election. It was officially disclosed in London Sunday.

Government sources said the appointment was not an indication of a snap election, but was in line with the government convention of giving responsibility for information to a minister during the latter part of its term in office.

Bernard Ingham, the prime minister's press secretary, had carried out the task for some time. (Kuaa)

Cossiga calls for talks: Italian President Francesco Cossiga has summoned top Sicilian investigators to discuss allegations of a cover-up over mafia murders of local politicians, his office said on Saturday.

The meeting, scheduled for Wednesday at the presidential palace, follows suggestions by a former mayor that investigators withheld evidence because they were afraid of exposing involvement in high places.

Over the past six years, four Sicilian politicians who spoke out against mafia corruption have been murdered. (Reuters)

Japanese scales Makalu: Hiroshi Onishi, 38, and Nina Dorje Sherpa, 35, scaled the 27,766-foot (8,463 m) high Mt. Makalu, the world's fifth tallest peak, on May 6, the Ministry of Tourism said Sunday, quoting delayed reports from base camp.

The two men climbed from the northwest ridge with a four-member Japanese team led by Makoto Hara, 44, a doctor from Nagoya.

Also, Ingrid Baeyens, 34, a Belgian physiotherapist, scaled the 26,795-foot (8,167 m) high Dhaulagiri from the east face on May 11, the ministry said. (UPI)

Wellesley bracing for graduation: Wellesley college students fear their graduation this year is going to become a three-ring circus, featuring Barbara Bush, Raisa Gorbachev and the press with little attention left over for them.

"I'm excited they're both speaking and in some ways it is going to be the summit of women," said graduating senior Emily Klotz. "But part of me is sad because there'll be so much press on campus, in some ways that's going to take the day away from us and our achievements." (Reuters)

Oldest fingerprint China claims

BEIJING, May 20. (Reuters): A Chinese police expert has discovered what he believes to be the world's oldest fingerprint — left by a potter as many as 7,000 years ago on the inside of a water jar.

Zhao Chengwen, associate professor of the Chinese police institute in Shenyang, made the discovery while examining relics from the neolithic site at Banpo in central China, the official New China News Agency said today.

Other police experts were quoted as saying it was a left thumb-print of a girl or boy aged about 13. Its characteristics were identical to modern-day fingerprints, Zhao said.

Latin America

Police seize cocaine: Police seized over 3,000 pounds (1,360 kg) of cocaine in northern Colombia while gunmen murdered three more police officers in Medellin apparently as part of a terrorist campaign blamed on drug traffickers, police said Saturday.

A special anti-narcotics police unit found the cocaine Friday when they raided a processing laboratory near the town of Puerto Triunfo, 75 miles (120 kms) north of Bogotá, a police communiqué said.

Police also seized ether, acetone and other chemicals used to make cocaine as well as processing equipment, the communiqué said.

The three Medellin police officers were killed in separate attacks late Saturday by gunmen who then fled, a police communiqué said. (AP)

Judge investigates suicide: A Chilean judge, sceptical about an autopsy declaring that British military journalist Jonathan Moyle died of suicide, has opened an investigation into his possible murder.

A spokesman for a leading Chilean conglomerate and arms manufacturer, which has exported to belligerent countries in the Gulf, Friday dismissed press reports originating in Europe that linked the death of the journalist to possible industrial espionage.

Though Moyle was in Santiago to cover the International Aeronautics Fair, press reports recently claimed he was actually an industrial spy trying to find out details on the Cardoen-Bell 208 L-11 helicopter, manufactured in Chile and now being tested in the United States.

Raul Montecinos, a spokesman for the Cardoen Consortium, the Chilean company that manufactures the helicopters as well as deadly military material, including cluster bombs, said there was nothing to "investigate" about the helicopter. (UPI)

Bus plunge kills 21: A speeding bus plunged Saturday from a highway overpass in southeastern Brazil, killing 21 people and injuring more than 40 others, police said.

The accident occurred late Saturday afternoon near the town of Itaquaquecetuba, about 40 miles (65 kms) from Sao Paulo.

All quiet on the Democrat front

WASHINGTON, May 20. (AP): Twenty-four months before the 1992 presidential election, the opposition Democratic Party was a hive of candidates busily seeking the party's nomination.

Twenty-four months before the 1992 election, potential candidates appear to have flown the coop.

The chairman of the Democratic Party was having lunch with three former chairmen. Inevitably, the conversation turned to 1992 and who was making moves toward challenging Republican President George Bush.

"We couldn't come up with a candidate," said John White, one of the former chairmen at the table.

Spooky
"It's kind of spooky," said Bruce Babbitt, the former Arizona governor who was an early casualty in the race for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination.

In May 1986, New Hampshire was buzzing with overt and covert presidential campaign activity. Rep. Richard Gephardt and Babbitt were campaigning actively. Others, including then-vice-president Bush, had campaign people working in the state.

In the past six months, no potential candidates have visited the state that holds the first presidential primary and no campaign people are soliciting support for candidates.

Ditto for Iowa, where the first presidential caucuses traditionally attract some of the earliest manoeuvring.

"Normally at this stage of the game you would have at least one or two out making all the body language, doing the fund-raising. Denying they were a candidate. But, obviously, you know, you can smell 'em," said White. "I don't find that anywhere now."

Party Chairman Ronald H. Brown, host at the luncheon that also included former chairmen Robert Strauss and Charles T. Manatt, said he doesn't share White's concern.

"I really think a 1991 start is plenty of time. I don't see any real reason or particular benefit to potential candidates being out this year," he said.

Brown acknowledged that it is "important to move around the country to get to know what is on voters' minds and to develop the techniques for communicating effectively with voters." But he insisted that even those Democrats "being mildly mentioned" are finding opportunities to get around the country.

"By this time in the cycle, I'd been out there (campaigning) for two years," said Walter F. Mondale, who learned how tough it was to challenge a popular incumbent president in his 1984 race against Ronald Reagan.

Quietude

The quietude is widely perceived as a general reluctance to jump into a race against the Republican president whose approval ratings in opinion polls are at near-record levels.

There are a few stirrings. Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder plans to visit both Iowa and New Hampshire next month and get acquainted with people in the states that traditionally kick off the presidential nominating season.

A group of Texans is getting organised to promote Sen. Lloyd Bentsen for president, but the man who drew rave reviews as the 1988 Democratic vice-presidential nominee insists he's not running.

On any given day, civil rights activist Jesse Jackson is delivering a speech somewhere. Whether that's campaigning or just a way of life is anyone's guess.

Beyond those three, there are lots of other names, but very little activity.

Babbitt is practicing law and writing about the destruction of the rain forests in Brazil, and showing no inclination to repeat his 1988 adventure. But like other Democrats, he worries about the lack of activity in his party.

Asteroid that killed dinosaurs may have struck Cuba: US researchers

MIAMI, May 20. (AP): An asteroid many scientists believe ended the dinosaurs' reign on earth 66 million years ago may have struck just off the western tip of what is current-day Cuba, say two US researchers.

If they can overcome diplomatic hurdles caused by a US economic embargo, Bruce Bohor of the US Geological Survey and geophysicist Russell Seitz, a former Harvard visiting scholar, want to go to the island to confirm their theory.

"The very presence of Cuba itself may be due to the asteroid," Bohor said in a telephone interview last week. "The curved tip of western Cuba may be the crater rim, and the Isle of Pines could be the central uplift," or peak.

Clues pointing to a Caribbean landfall were

assembled slowly in the decade since scientists first advanced the idea of a catastrophic end to the dinosaurs.

Although the asteroid theory is not universally accepted — some paleontologists blame climate changes or disease for the dinosaurs' extinction — it now has widespread support.

The theory requires an asteroid about 6 miles (10 kilometres) in diameter gouging out a crater up to 150 miles (240 kilometres) wide.

The resulting dust cloud, or perhaps impact-spawned fires, volcanic activity, climatic shifts and other factors, could have killed the giant reptiles directly or choked off their food supply.

"But there was a tough time accepting this

because there was no crater to relate it to — so we had to find a crater," Bohor said. "The possibility was that it hit the ocean, but that was hard to determine."

Researchers, however, began to notice what is in effect a geological directional arrow, pointing to somewhere near North America.

A study by Arizona researchers Alan Holdebrand and William Boynton, published in Friday's Science magazine, agrees about the general area of the strike, somewhere in the Caribbean. They believe the asteroid fell more to the south of what is now Cuba, however — closer to Colombia.

Bohor and Seitz, who explained their theory in the April 12 edition of Nature, say without a close

inspection of the Cuban site, no one can be sure. And, they say, all geologists are basing their findings on the same data.

All around the world, a layer of iridium, an element found in asteroids, has been found at about 66-million-year level in geological formations.

Also found at the same level are "shocked" mineral grains — microscopic quartz crystals apparently blown out of the earth's crust by a massive impact and carried around the world by winds.

But something interesting happens to those crystals in North America, says Seitz.

From the western United States southward, the crystals get bigger — so big they could not have been blown there, but would have to have been ejected directly by the force of impact.

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Taiwan to drop '3-Nos' policy

Lee urges better mainland ties

TAIPEI, May 20, (AP): President Lee Teng-hui in his inaugural address today urged better relations with Beijing as a step toward reunification of Taiwan and China and ordered some political prisoners released from jail.

For the first time, a Taiwanese president publicly indicated a desire to drop the country's 40-year-old China policy known as the "Three Nos" — no official contact, no negotiations and no compromise.

Lee, who was elected president in April by the National Assembly, proposed establishing "channels of communication" with China, including academic, cultural, economic, trade, scientific and technological exchanges to "lay a foundation of mutual respect, peace and prosperity."

"We hope then, when objective conditions are ripe, we will be able to discuss the matter of our national reunification," he said.



A Taiwanese student holds a placard showing a picture of Sun Yat-sen with the words 'The National Father is crying' during a demonstration in Taipei yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

But Lee said before such relations could be established, Beijing must renounce the use of force against Taiwan, end its policy of isolating Taiwan diplomatically, and promote democracy and a free economic system in China.

Lee's nationalist Chinese government has been based on the island of Taiwan since losing a civil war to communist forces on the Chinese mainland in 1949.

The nationalists still claim to be the rightful government of all China, and Beijing regards Taiwan as renegade province.

While Beijing previously has indicated it would not meet the conditions set by Lee, the speech clearly was designed to reflect Taipei's desire to gradually improve relations.

The president also expressed a desire to end within two years the "mobilisation for the suppression of the communist rebellion," which dates from 1948. The decree has ensured the nationalists' monopoly on power by stipulating that legislators elected before 1949 on the Chinese mainland must stay in office until they can return to their constituencies for reelection.

This has presented obstacles to expanding relations with China and introducing democratic reforms in Taiwan.

Lee's address included a two-year timetable for bringing more democracy to Taiwan. He restored civil rights to previously jailed leaders of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party, who had been barred from running for office.

But his recent nomination of a four-star general as the new premier has led opposition politicians and intellectuals to question the government's commitment to democratisation.

About 10,000 people, including students and opposition party members, staged a noisy protest march through the streets of Taipei today to denounce Lee's choice of Gen. Hau Pei-tsun as premier.

"Although President Lee has proposed democratic reforms, Hau is a military strongman opposed to pluralism," said student leader Chin Yu-Ping as protesters marched from a downtown park to the sound of gongs and drums.



President swears

Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui swears a new oath of office during a ceremony to inaugurate him into his full term of office. (Reuters wirephoto)

Deng's leadership role

Yang reaffirms

BEIJING, May 20, (Reuters): Veteran leader Deng Xiaoping still plays a major part in Chinese politics, state television reported today, breaking official silence on the 85-year-old leader's role since his quiet formal retirement in March.

"His wisdom, experience and policies will continue to play a guiding role in China's socialist construction," President Yang Shangkun was quoted as saying on a tour of Brazil.

Deng was no longer involved in the daily running of China but remained a central figure of the "second generation" leadership, the 83-year-old Yang told a news conference.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung, who died in 1976, headed the first generation of leaders.

Yang's comments were the lead item on state television's evening news broadcast and were clearly aimed at dispelling doubts among many of China's 1.1 billion people about Deng's hold on power.

The increasingly reclusive Deng emerged from a three-month absence on May 13 in see visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. But in a break with precedent the official Chinese language media did not report the meeting.

Rumours of Deng's death this month reverberated through international financial markets because traders believe his demise will usher in a fierce power struggle in the world's most populous country.

Some Western analysts speculated Deng had been shunted aside by veteran hardliners after he stepped down in March with an fanfare from his last post as head of the state central military commission.

Command of the military and Communist Party was passed after last June's political upheaval in Jiang Zemin, a 63-year-old technocrat handpicked by Deng and described as the core of the "third generation leadership."

Yang, who has a strong background in the military, implicitly expressed his support for Jiang, saying that events since last June had shown that the party's new leadership was effective.

China's security forces have stopped hunting students who took part in last year's political unrest, Zemin said in an interview broadcast in Japan



Shouts for release

About four thousand protesters with their bikes shout slogans demanding the release of pro-democracy activists imprisoned in China as they walk past a New China News Agency, China's de facto consulate during a bicycle demonstration yesterday, the first anniversary of imposition of martial law in Beijing. (Reuters wirephoto)

today.

Diplomats in Beijing said Jiang's remarks were the latest in a series of conciliatory statements made by Chinese leaders to try to persuade Western governments to lift their sanctions.

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Mentally retarded sterilized in China

BEIJING, May 20, (AP): China's first province to approve a mandatory sterilization law for the mentally retarded performed 5,500 operations in the 14 months after the law took effect, an official report said today.

Officials in the northwestern province of Gansu said their goal was to sterilize most of Gansu's 260,000 mentally retarded residents by the end of next year, the People's Daily newspaper said.

Since the law was enacted in January 1989, Gansu has set up a diagnostic network and required examination for all couples planning to marry. It also has sent teams out to villages with large numbers of mentally retarded to "do ideological work among the relatives and guardians."

Arid, remote Gansu, one of China's poorest regions, has several large concentrations of mentally and physically handicapped people, due in part to inbreeding in isolated villages.

The People's Daily said one county had more than 799 mentally handicapped people, but that medical teams had sterilized 516.

China has said it is drafting a national eugenics law to reduce "the births of inferior and abnormal children to a minimum," according to the official China Daily newspaper. The paper said the national law also would bar the mentally retarded or people with hereditary diseases from marrying without first being sterilized.

The government says there are 50 million physically or mentally handicapped people nationwide out of a population of more than 1 billion.

China does not regard child-birth as a private matter. Healthy parents in most areas of the country are restricted to one child, with the timing of the birth decided by local authorities or one's work unit.

Cardinal Can dies in Hanoi

BANGKOK, May 20, (AP): Cardinal Trinh Van Can, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Vietnam's capital of Hanoi, has died of a heart attack, the official Vietnam news agency reported today. He was 69.

Can died Friday at his office, said the report, monitored in Bangkok. The funeral was scheduled Wednesday at the Hanoi church.

Worst clashes in Kwangju streets

Students, workers demand overthrow of Roh

KWANGJU, May 20, (Agencies): Thousands of students and workers demanding the overthrow of President Roh Tae-Woo clashed with police in downtown Kwangju today to mark the 10th anniversary of a bloody civil uprising.

At least 10,000 protesters hurling rocks and screaming "down with Roh Tae-Woo" rampaged along streets lined with department stores, hotels and office buildings in this southern city. Riot police in green combat fatigues with visored helmets chased protesters down narrow alleys, throwing rocks and tear-gas grenades.

Pedestrians raced for cover, choking in clouds of acrid tear-gas. One observer said it was the worst fighting in Kwangju since 1987 when nation-wide protests forced the government to grant democratic reforms.

The rest of the country was quiet, however, with all the protest centred in Kwangju, 260 km (175 miles) southwest of Seoul. Onlookers in doorways and alleys cheered on the protesters and shouting insults at police, but most did not join in the pitched battles that raged around them.



South Korean riot police break through flames to raid into campus of Chosun University in Kwangju yesterday during a clash with more than 1,000 students and labour demonstrators. Students continue to stage rallies at universities in Seoul. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chinese police halt mass suicide rite

BEIJING, May 20, (AP): Police halted a mass suicide rite by more than 100 followers of a peasant woman preacher who said the world was coming to an end and promised salvation, an official report said today.

The Workers' Daily said the followers, all residents of a central China village, were prepared to drink poisoned liquor and pesticide at the order of Xiong Chenhua.

More than 20 women in the group were kneeling on the ground in yellow clothing with red insignia,

waiting for Xiong to return from a promised meeting with Jesus, when "more than 10 police descended from the sky," the newspaper said sarcastically. The other followers were waiting for the women to call them when it was time to take the poison, it said.

The paper said the incident occurred last October in Henan province's Tongbo mountain district. Chinese newspapers often report events weeks or months after they occur, being concerned less with news than with teaching a lesson.

It was the third day of violent anti-government protests in Kwangju, which in 1980 was the scene of the government's bloodiest crackdown on demonstrators. At least 200 people were killed in the 1980 crackdown.

Columns of police guarding the provincial headquarters today fired tear-gas to break up groups of club- and rock-wielding protesters.

At one point, about 3,000 protesters briefly occupied a six-lane street near the city centre. Police dispersed them by firing hundreds of volleys of tear-gas from black armoured vans.

"Disband the DLP," protesters screamed, charging that Roh's new governing Democratic Liberal Party, formed in a merger with two opposition groups, would lead to dictatorship.

There were no immediate reports of arrests or injuries in today's fighting.

Because many citizens believe the United States was responsible for the military crushing of the 1980 revolt, anti-American sentiment in Kwangju is strong. Many protesters shouted, "Yankee go home."

The US Cultural Centre in the city was closed down last year after it had been attacked 18 times since the early 1980s.

Earlier today, thousands of riot police firing tear-gas stormed the campus of Chosun University to disperse 5,000 students and workers staging an anti-government rally.

Radical students and workers battled police in a thick fog of tear-gas inside the campus. About 300 protesters barricaded themselves on the roofs of several school buildings, showering rocks and firebombs down upon riot police. About a dozen police were injured and evacuated.

In another part of the city, more than 10,000 students at the national Chonnam University rallied overnight on the campus, hurled a giant American flag and shouted insults toward thousands of riot police outside.

Student leaders said they were saddened by the death of a fellow student but said it would not deter plans to stage major protests in Kwangju.

Police officials said Shin Jang-Ho, 21, a student from Seoul died at a hospital of head injuries suffered after jumping off a speeding train in the outskirts of Kwangju yesterday.

Shin was among several hundred students who jumped off the train to avoid arrest by police at Kwangju railway station. Police checked identities of all students arriving in the city by train, car and bus.

North, the retired marine lieutenant-colonel who was convicted in the scandal, will undoubtedly be given immunity and be forced to testify, these sources said.

North, a White House aide, worked on the National Security Council staff. John Poindexter, Reagan's recently convicted national security adviser, also is a prime candidate to testify, the sources said.

Neither North nor Poindexter have appeared before a grand jury.

In addition to examining the National Security Council, the CIA's role also may be scrutinized more closely.

So far, Walsh's office has prosecuted or negotiated guilty pleas with seven Iran-Contra defendants. The eighth case, involving a former high-ranking CIA official, was scuttled by Attorney-General Dick Thornburgh on "national security" grounds, Walsh is appealing. A ninth man awaits trial in Baltimore.

By the end of the summer, Walsh expects to know when he can conclude his 3 1/2-year investigation. He is 78, tired and wants to return to Oklahoma city, where he lives. But he also says he fully intends to complete his job.

Being tired is "no excuse for quitting," he said.

Walsh is a former federal judge. A Republican, he served as deputy attorney-general under President Eisenhower and has a distinguished legal career.



Return to Earth possible

The Soviet Union denied on Saturday that two cosmonauts were marooned in space and said they would be able to return to Earth after routine repairs to their ferry craft.

The newspaper newspaper Tass acknowledged that the Russian crew of the Soyuz spacecraft of cosmonauts Anatoly Solovoy and Alexander Baladin was damaged during its launch in February.

The newspaper, quoting the official responsible for the ferry craft, dismissed a US report in the Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine that the cosmonauts aboard the orbiting Mir space station had no reliable means of returning to Earth.

Asked whether the condition of the Soyuz craft could affect the return of the cosmonauts, the official, Yuri Serbryannikov replied "in no way."

He added: "The work in orbit is continuing at the normal pace. There have been no special occurrences."

Tass said: "There is no urgency but it is likely that during the next walk in space, they will be asked to sort out the (trouble) spot."

Picture shows Soviet Union's orbiting space station Mir pictured on Soviet space centre television screens on Feb. 11, 1990. Inset, cosmonauts Anatoly Solovoy (left) and Alexander Baladin. (Reuters wirephotos)

Scandal probe in final phase

WASHINGTON, May 20, (UPI): Tired but satisfied, special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh is now supervising the final phase of his long investigation into the Iran-Contra scandal, Ronald Reagan's biggest political disaster.

In an interview with United Press International, Walsh made it clear his investigation is continuing, although he would not discuss specific details.

Now that he has prosecuted all the "central figures" in the case, Walsh said, "that would leave the supporting agencies and the supervising agency — the National Security Council itself."

Although Walsh declined comment, legal and law enforcement sources outside his office expect a federal grand jury to examine the possibility of perjury by figures who testified during the congressional Iran-Contra hearings and in various court cases.

Oliver North, the retired marine lieutenant-colonel who was convicted in the scandal, will undoubtedly be given immunity and be forced to testify, these sources said.

North, a White House aide, worked on the National Security Council staff. John Poindexter, Reagan's recently convicted national security adviser, also is a prime candidate to testify, the sources said.

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Walsh is a former federal judge. A Republican, he served as deputy attorney-general under President Eisenhower and has a distinguished legal career.

Profile

Doctor never far from Bush

WASHINGTON, May 20, (AP): When President George Bush went to violence-torn Colombia to talk about drugs, no one worried more about his safety than White House physician Burton Lee.

"I thought it was a dangerous play," Lee said. "I didn't particularly want him to go. I thought it was asking for it."

Lee and his staff of 16, together with a handful of civilian and military surgeons, set up a sea-going trauma centre on a US aircraft-carrier. It was equipped to deal with casualties up to the level of what Lee likened to "invasion catastrophes."

The well-guarded President was not his only worry.

"One of the principal concerns of the people in the White House was that we thought the press corps was going to get it. I was set up for 20 or 30 of the press corps if they had gotten hit," he said.

To Lee's relief, the facility went unused during the one-day presidential trip that ended without violence.

"I think it was really quite dangerous and when it was over we were all very happy," he said in an interview.

The drug summit was "by far" the biggest operation yet for Lee, the doctor with principal responsibility for the President's health.

It was not the job he had in mind when Bush, a longtime friend, tapped him to come to Washington.

"I wanted something in the drug-fighting game," he said, perhaps the drug advisership post that went to former education secretary William Bennett.

But ultimately he gave up his large lymphoma practice at New York's Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre to become White House physician.

As such, he or someone from his staff must be within a few steps of the President at all times.

Lee is close to both the President and Mrs Bush and is known as a great raconteur.

He travels with the President aboard Air Force One. He oversees the President's physical exams, and Mrs Bush's. He joins Bush on fishing excursions, their shared passion.

And he often pokes into health-care policy issues that are not within the purview of his office, earning a reputation in some administration quarters as a gadfly. One conservative official call him "a well-meaning kibitzer."

Lee says ministering to Bush's health is fairly uncomplicated because the 65-year-old President is in excellent shape.

During a rapid-paced "power walk" along the shore of Kennebunkport, Maine, this winter, the 60-year-old Lee, trim and fit himself, ended up having to hitch a ride in a police car because he couldn't keep up with Bush.

"I got so far behind the police started asking me who I was," he lamented.

A lifetime medical professional, he has an intensity befitting his profession, his administration colleagues say.

Soon for women

Cancer drug

LONDON, May 20, (Kuna): A British drug currently used to inhibit the spread of breast cancer is soon to be offered to thousands of healthy women to reduce their risk of getting the disease, it was reported here today.

The Sunday Times newspaper said British doctors, who pioneered the drug called tamoxifen, now believe it could provide the best hope for eradicating the cancer, in the absence of a total cure.

Tamoxifen seems to work by "switching off" oestrogen-dependent cancer cells in the breast, but doctors have now realised that the drug may also prevent healthy women from getting cancer, the paper reported.

It added that no toxic side-effects have so far been detected and if found to be safe, all women could be offered the drug in the form of a daily pill.

The paper noted that the decision to offer the treatment widely marks a new approach to breast cancer, which affects one woman in 12 and kills 15,000 British women a year.

Gorby doll

A smiling clerk shows off a Gorby doll modelled after Soviet President Gorbachev. The 25-cm-high dolls \$25 apiece available in three types, will go on sale in Japan on June 10. The money box type Gorby bank also will be sold at \$12 by Tokyo's Avanti Co. Ltd. (Reuters wirephoto)

British woman's stripped, strangled body found in France

AUXERRE, France, May 20, (UPI): A young British woman whose stripped body was found in a river near Auxerre had been strangled at her residence before being dumped, police said yesterday.

Johanna Parrish, a 20-year-old English assistant at an Auxerre secondary school, was discovered dead near the Yonne river near Auxerre early Thursday. Police said the woman's clothes were not found at the scene, and that there was evidence her ankles and wrists had been tied.

Investigators said there was evidence of a violent struggle at the woman's apartment, and that it appeared she had been struck several times with an iron poker.

There was no initial indication of whether she had been sexually assaulted, but further tests were being conducted in Paris.

Police were trying to locate a man who had responded to an advertisement Parrish had

placed in a free newspaper for private courses. The man was believed to have had an appointment at 7 pm Wednesday night. The death was believed to have occurred around 11 pm Wednesday.

Parrish, who was to have turned 21 next July 30, was planning to return to her parents' home this weekend at Newnham-on-Severn, near Brivion. She had worked as an English assistant at the Lycee Jacques-Amyot since October 1989.

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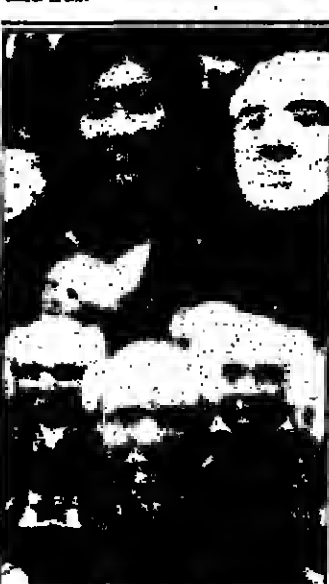
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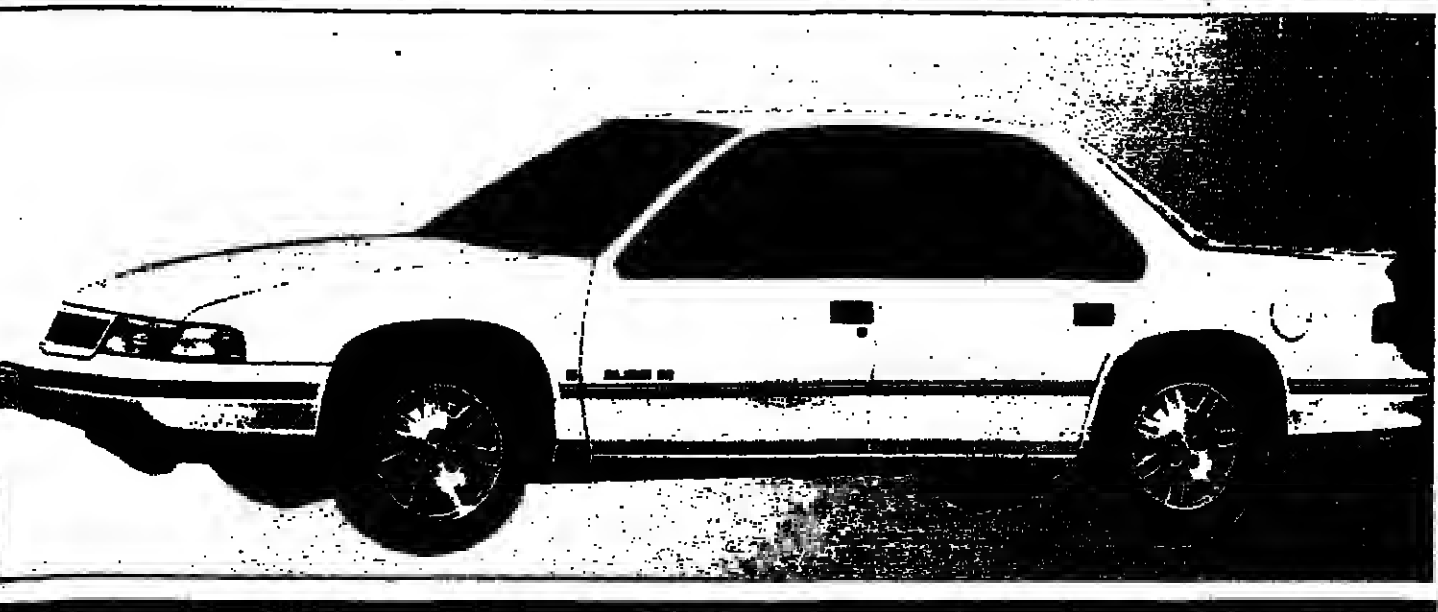
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Gorby doll

A smiling clerk shows off a Gorby doll modelled after Soviet President Gorbachev. The 25-cm-high dolls \$25 apiece available in three types, will go on sale in Japan on June 10. The money box type Gorby bank also will be sold at \$12 by Tokyo's Avanti Co. Ltd. (Reuters wirephoto)



Stage being set for superpower summit

'Trailblazing agreement' reached

MOSCOW, May 20. (AP) Soviet and US negotiators say the stage is set for a fruitful summit after agreeing to destroy chemical weapons and settle disputes over nuclear-tipped cruise missiles.

US Secretary of State James Baker, in concluding four days of talks Saturday, said a "trailblazing agreement" had been reached.

"The progress we have made here makes me optimistic that we will have a productive summit in Washington," said Baker of plans for a meeting this month between US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Arms cut US offers new ideas

WASHINGTON, May 20. (AP) The administration of President George Bush is proposing new ideas to solve several knotty issues holding up East-West agreement on reducing Conventional Forces in Europe, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said.

But he said he didn't expect a sudden breakthrough in the complex negotiations.

Cheney, in an interview with AP Broadcast Services, confirmed the proposals were taken to Moscow by Secretary of State James Baker.

He gave no details about the proposals except to say they were developed by himself, Gen. Colin Powell, who is chairman of the joint chiefs, and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft.

Cheney was responding to a question about a report in the New York Times that the United States had proposed to "split the difference" on such problems as limits on the number of tactical aircraft, one of the major sticking points in the Vienna talks.



US Secretary of State James Baker speaks during his final press conference in Moscow on Saturday. Baker said the two superpowers would be in a position to announce an agreement on strategic arms reductions by the Washington summit. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said the Moscow meetings gave him "confidence now that the treaty on strategic arms can be prepared for signature before the end of this year."

Baker said the two sides had made less progress than he hoped toward a treaty to reduce troops, tanks and other non-nuclear arms in Europe.

In the United States, Bush told reporters he gave the preparatory talks a "mixed review." He said it would "take some give" by the Soviets for the summit to be a success.

An agreement on chemical weapons, to be signed during the May 30-June 3 summit, is designed to show the way for some 40 nations negotiating a global ban on chemical weapons production in Geneva.

"Very simply put, this US-Soviet accord is a trailblazing agreement," Baker said.

Baker said Bush and Gorbachev also will sign an agreement on verifying limits on underground nuclear test explosions conducted under 1974 and 1976 US-Soviet treaties. The protocols call for on-site inspection.

Baker said the two sides were closer to plan for elections in Afghanistan, where the Soviet Union intervened militarily in 1979.

The agreement on air and sea-launched cruise missiles removes a major obstacle to a declaration to cut US and Soviet long-range nuclear weapons by Bush and Gorbachev at their summit.

"We are now in a position to do so," Baker said, although he said some issues remained to be settled. They will be tackled by US and Soviet negotiators beginning Sunday in Geneva, and the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start) might be completed by the end of the year.

A summit declaration would point the way to an overall reduction of 30 per cent to 35 per cent in US and Soviet long-range bombers, missiles and submarines.

Turning to Lithuania, Baker said the Soviets and the leaders of the breakaway Baltic republic were working harder to find a way to settle their dispute peacefully, but "they are not there yet."

Baker was euphoric in announcing the chemical weapons pact.

"We have reached agreement on a precedent-setting accord," he said. "I believe that this agreement is very significant, particularly as it provides a real pathway toward a global ban on horrific weapons that we already know from bitter experience actually get used."

Under the agreement to be signed at the summit, the two sides would immediately cease production of chemical weapons and destroy 80 per cent of their stocks.

By the eighth year, both sides would have reduced their supplies further to 2 per cent of the current level and two years after that they hope to destroy the rest, if all other countries capable of producing chemical weapons join them in a global ban, US officials said.

Meanwhile, Shevardnadze said he had asked Baker to raise the US quota to allow more Soviet Jews to emigrate to the United States rather than Israel, in order to reduce tensions in the Middle East. He said no specific number was mentioned.

On strategic nuclear arms, Baker said the two sides reached agreement on "two of the most vexing problems we have faced: air-launched cruise missiles, and sea-launched cruise missiles."

Missiles carried on fighter planes would be curbed under a "complicated formula which equitably meets the needs of both sides," he said.

Shootings

Soldier kills commander

WARSAW, May 20. (AP) A military cadet on guard duty shot to death four other guards, including the unit's commander, then fled an army communications school in Zegrze, near Warsaw, the PAP news agency reported.

Military authorities said Cadet Janusz Ochotnik, 21, of Pulawy, on Saturday morning killed fellow cadets Mariusz Chomik, Dariusz Pydym and Andrzej Dabrowicz and the guard unit's commander, Cadet Marek Czarniecki.

Ochotnik wounded another cadet and briefly took two hostages before he fled in a military vehicle that was later found abandoned, PAP said. A search continues for the cadet believed to be still armed with his army-issue automatic weapon.

EEC ministers focus on political union

PARKNASILLA, Ireland, May 20. (AP) European Economic Community foreign ministers met yesterday to thrash out the next step toward their declared goal of closer political integration.

"This is the start of a major exercise," Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins said as the ministers of the 12-nation community met at Parknasilla, a picturesque resort near Killarney overlooking Kenmare Bay.

"We have, for example, to define for ourselves what we mean by political union."

Collins, chairman of the two-day meeting, added in an interview with Irish radio. Ireland holds the community's rotating presidency.

The ministers were not due to reach formal conclusions on political union.

But the meeting was their first attempt to draw up draft proposals on political union to be put before the Community's heads of government at a meeting at the end of June.

At a special summit in Dublin on April 28, the Community leaders agreed in principle to

achieve some form of closer political union by 1993.

In June, the leaders are expected, despite British reservations, to convene concurrent conferences on political union and economic and monetary union, which has the same 1993 deadline.

The foreign ministers held off discussing South Africa because of the late arrival of British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. Hurd and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had met with South African President F.W. de Klerk in Britain earlier Saturday.

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Who needs Nato?

Whether it has any role

WASHINGTON, May 20. (AP) In the unfamiliar landscape of a Western Europe no longer threatened by the military might of the Warsaw Pact, Nato is searching for a new reason to be.

Communism's collapse in Eastern Europe last year gave the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) the victory for freedom and democracy it had sought for four decades. But it also stole the alliance's main reason for being and has led some analysts

to question whether it has any role left. The Berlin Wall is history. The Iron Curtain is parting. Missiles are being destroyed. People on both sides of the Atlantic are asking: Who needs Nato?

President George Bush, who meets next week with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, says the alliance, in one form or another, must remain.

Gorby summit

Security nightmare

WASHINGTON, May 20. (Reuters) The visit of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev next week, taking a Soviet leader into middle America for the first time in 30 years, will be a security nightmare because of the number of stops.

It is also causing jitters among planners because there is still no firm schedule or itinerary.

Dubbed "a tale of three cities" because of visits by Gorbachev and wife Raisa to Washington, Minneapolis and San Francisco, the tour starts on May 30 and ends on June 4.

"It doesn't help not to have the schedule," said secret service spokesman Rich Adams.

Soviet embassy official George Shchekochikhin agreed: "It's hectic. We don't have final arrangements."

The biggest potential for embarrassment is from demonstrators backing independence for the Soviet Baltic republics.

Arms control experts and trade officials are also working around the clock to wrap up agreements for US President George Bush and Gorbachev to sign so they can hail the summit as more than just a routine "full and frank exchange of views."

The main aims are a strategic arms reduction (Start) agreement to reduce nuclear weapons arsenals, and pacts on cutting chemical weapons and conventional forces in Europe.

Trade negotiators want most favoured nation status for Moscow allowing Soviet goods into the US at low tariffs and making the US market competitive with Europe and Japan.

Other trade agreements at stake include a new five-year grain accord and a shipping pact to share cargo.

Gorbachev says it should be dissolved, as should the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact.

Washington fears that Western satisfaction with Soviet peace moves will create an unstoppable momentum toward disarmament that could erode US influence in Europe and undercut the nation's role as a superpower.

Nato, some US officials say, is a guarantee of continued US influence in Europe.

Secretary of States James Baker said in a speech May 14 that the alliance will remain "the place where Western democracies join in guaranteeing the new peace of Europe." But he also said Nato must adapt to the new political order.

Bush and leaders of the 15 other Nato member countries will meet July 5-6 in London to try to preserve the alliance by redefining its role.

The next day, defence ministers from the seven-nation Warsaw Pact will gather to consider that alliance's future.

The first non-communist Defence Minister of East Germany, Rainer Eppelmann, has indicated the Eastern alliance might be preserved as a political forum - for a limited period.

But he added that "it now appears as though the Warsaw Pact is in the process of dissolving itself."

The Kremlin believes both alliances should be dismantled, replaced by new European security structures that would include the United States and the Soviet Union.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze earlier this month proposed, as a first step, the immediate creation in Berlin of a "pan-European centre for the elimination of the military threat," to control military activity in a unified Germany.

Gorbachev and Shevardnadze say a Nato including Germany would upset the fundamental East-West balance of power in Europe.

The Soviets have so far refused to accept a US-West German formula that would incorporate a reunited Germany in Nato and that would allow Soviet troops to remain temporarily in what is now East Germany.

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First free polls in Romania

500 foreign observers monitor balloting

BUCHAREST, Romania, May 20, (AP): Romanians turned out in large numbers today to vote in the first free, multiparty elections in more than half a century, formally ending 44 years of Communist Party monopoly in their country.

Among the early voters were interim President Ion Iliescu, the frontrunner in the three-way presidential contest, and the three children of ousted communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu who are awaiting trial on charges of complicity with their father's regime.

The main pre-election issue was whether Romania's old centrally

controlled economy will change slowly into a market economy or be quickly abandoned in favour of Western-style capitalism. Romanians suffer wide shortages of consumer goods and food, including meat, bread and cheese.

Across the country, lines formed at polling stations. Dolphi Drimer, a member of the Central Electoral Bureau, told Bucharest radio some six hours after polling stations opened that voting was taking place "in good conditions, which demonstrates the political maturity of our people."

Nicu, kin vote in Romania free polls

BUCHAREST, May 20, (AP): Among the voters who streamed to the polls in Romania's first free elections in more than half a century were the three children of the man who kept the country in an iron grip of dictatorship.

Nicolae Ceausescu's daughter and two sons — who are awaiting trial on various charges of complicity in his terrifying 24 years in power — voted at a police station in the capital. None was handcuffed.

Nicu, Ceausescu's youngest son and once destined to be his successor, voted first, spending several minutes in the booth before emerging and dropping a large envelope in a ballot box.

Nicu goes on trial next week-end on charges of complicity in genocide in the Transylvanian city of Sibiu, 250 kilometres (150 miles) northwest of Bucharest. He was regional Communist Party chief there until his arrest in the December revolt that toppled his father.

Clad in jeans and a dark sweater, he declined to speak to reporters at his first public appearance since he was shown on television the night of Dec 22, just after his capture.

Ceausescu's oldest son, Valentin, 43, a nuclear engineer, spent comparatively little time in the booth.

Fair

"I'm treated like everyone else in prison, if you mean that can be fair," he said, smiling and looking relaxed in jogging suit top and jeans.

"It is very difficult for me to say something concrete about the elections. It is good, however, that the people are given the chance to have more options," the state news agency Rompres quoted him as saying.

Ceausescu's only daughter, Zoia Elena, 38, a mathematician, looked nervous and came out of the booth after only 20 seconds. She refused to make a statement.

Rompres said they were allowed to vote "as they were under investigation and still not sentenced and stripped of political and civil rights."

Members of Ceausescu's ruling communist politburo facing trial also will be allowed to vote in police stations, the agency said.

Meanwhile, anti-communist demonstrators in Bucharest's university square ignored a ban on political campaigning and appeals from the government to free the main traffic artery, continuing their demonstration for a 29th day.

"We shall stay here until the problem of democracy is solved once and for all in Romania," said economist Marin Fugaciu.



A Romanian boy carries an election poster of Radu Campeanu, one of the three foremost candidates for yesterday's presidential elections in Bucharest. (Reuters wirephoto)

Danube co-operation

VIENNA, May 20, (AP): Czechoslovakia today formally joined Austria, Italy, Yugoslavia and Hungary in a new co-operation group that is the only one in Europe to unite neutral and non-aligned NATO and Warsaw Pact nations.

The foreign ministers of four nations and a high Foreign Ministry official from Hungary met in Vienna to discuss ways of furthering co-operation in transport, communications, the environment, culture and small businesses.

They then boarded a Danube

river boat to sail to Bratislava, capital of Slovakia, for more talks.

The organisation grew out of co-operation between border regions of Italy, Yugoslavia, Austria and Hungary that began 11 years ago in the "Alps-Adria".

These four nations decided to boost co-operation last fall, just before the peaceful revolution in Czechoslovakia that toppled the communists and brought former dissidents such as Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier and President Vaclav Havel to power.

Activists keep vigil at Lithuania House

No suspension of independence

MOSCOW, May 20, (AP): Independence supporters in Lithuania kept vigil outside the republic's Parliament and vowed to remain through the weekend to guard the building from activist opponents, reports said today.

Lithuanian radio, monitored by the BBC, said the activists were seeking to guard against any incidents such as those last Tuesday in Latvia and Estonia, where opponents of independence tried to storm government buildings.

The report said they planned to remain at least until Monday.

About 10,000 singing and flag-waving people rallied yesterday outside the Supreme Council building in Vilnius, capital of Lithuania, in a show of support, according to Vilnius radio.

The demonstration came as Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene urged Lithuania lawmakers not to suspend their March 11 declaration of independence, despite Soviet demands and reports of a US suggestion they do so.

The parliament, meeting in an emergency session, did not immediately take action on the latest efforts at a compromise in the standoff with the Kremlin over independence.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev now insists on suspension rather than revocation of the declaration of independence. But Mrs Prunskiene, who met with Gorbachev in Moscow on Thursday, said either step would put the republic back under Moscow's thumb.

Gorbachev has said the other two Baltic republics, Estonia and Latvia, violated the Soviet constitution with the steps they have taken toward independence. But he has not imposed economic sanctions on them, as he has against Lithuania.

Gorbachev has cut off all oil and most of the natural gas supplied to Lithuania, as well as some raw materials, for its secessionist moves.

"We must take as many steps toward the other side as we can," Mrs Prunskiene said, according to parliamentary spokesman Ed Tuskenis.

There were differing accounts of what US Secretary of State James Baker told Lithuanian leaders on Friday.

Vice-President Czeslovas Stankevicius, who attended the meet-

Gorby encourages Private homes

MOSCOW, May 20, (Reuters): President Mikhail Gorbachev says he wants to encourage the private building of homes to help solve the Soviet Union's worsening housing shortage.

He said a totally new approach was needed if the Communist Party was to fulfil an ambitious plan to give every Soviet family its own home by the year 2000.

"It's obvious that it will be impossible to solve the housing problem using our current methods," he said in a long decree published today by the party newspaper Pravda. He added that failure to meet 1989 building targets had only made things worse.

"The construction of private homes should be considered as an important state matter," Gorbachev declared. He said plots of land and building materials should be made available in the cities and the countryside.

His decree also called for the creation of a housing market through the use of taxation policies, new banks, and joint ventures in construction, the lifting of all restrictions on the exchange of flats and houses and the establishment of estate agencies.

The state had to shift the emphasis away from industrial construction and concentrate on building new flats and houses. Although there had been a recent increase in house building "the severity of the housing problem has not diminished."

ing along with Mrs Prunskiene, said Baker suggested a suspension.

But a senior US official yesterday denied that. In fact, the official said, Baker had assured the Lithuanian prime minister that the Bush administration wanted the independence movement to succeed.

"Whatever decision you take, it is one we are going to support," the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, quoted Baker

as saying. "This is exactly what he said."

Speaking earlier at a news conference in Moscow, Baker said only that he had told Mrs Prunskiene that "dialogue was important."

In Moscow, radical reformers yesterday proposed amending the Russian republic's constitution to give its laws priority over the laws of the Soviet Union, in a direct assault on Gorbachev's authority.

E. Germany planned 'Chinese solution'

BONN, May 20, (AP): East German officials under leader Erich Honecker planned to use military force to crush last fall's peaceful revolution, but Honecker rescinded the order, a newspaper said today.

Honecker made the decision after he became suspicious that plans for his ouster also were in the making, said the Bonn-based Die Welt newspaper, citing as its source a former high-ranking East German secret police officer.

The Die Welt report, which was provided early to other news media, will appear in its tomorrow's editions.

It said that former Communist Party Secretary-General Egon Krenz and ex-secret police chief Erich Mielke made the plans for a "Chinese solution," to crush the dissidents a day before a mass demonstration in Leipzig on Oct 9.

The Oct 8 secret meeting in Mielke's office in East Berlin also was attended by party Politburo member Guntter Schabowski, Die Welt said.

"If we want to topple the Politburo — we will have to use a hard hand to ensure order and quiet," the newspaper quoted the three as deciding. Honecker, as East Germany's leader, also was the top man in the Politburo.

Die Welt said that new orders were issued to the military and secret police clearly indicating that the revolution was to be crushed in Leipzig, where hundreds of thousands of protesters regularly demonstrated last fall.

"We inspected all our weapons checked street barriers and supplies. A clear alignment for the use of armed force," the newspaper quoted the secret police source as saying.



A huge paper-mache puppet of Soviet President Gorbachev throws flowers over a puppet of an East and West German wedding couple during the traditional carnival parade in Dusseldorf, West Germany. (Reuters wirephoto)

German unification

Kohl aide was in Moscow

WEST BERLIN, May 20, (AP): A top political adviser to Chancellor Helmut Kohl recently travelled to Moscow to discuss West Germany's likely financial support for Soviet troops in East Germany, a Bonn government spokesman said today.

Kohl's aides have said that West Germany probably will have to temporarily subsidise the Soviet troops as early as this summer, once the West German mark replaces the East German currency.

West German willingness to provide financial support for the 380,000 Soviet troops is widely seen as one way to overcome any Soviet objections to German unification, possibly including the Kremlin's vocal opposition to NATO membership for the united country.

Bonn also has advocated greater financial co-operation with the Soviets to help calm their fears about a united Germany.

In an interview with the Bonn newspaper Die Welt, Economics

Minister Helmut Haussman said that Moscow's agreement to unity depends on economic co-operation between the two countries.

Haussman was scheduled to travel to Moscow tomorrow for talks with Kremlin officials, the newspaper said. Haussman said Bonn wants to help the Soviets in their "difficult economic reform process."

West German financial support, even temporary, for Soviet troops would be a first in the history of the Atlantic alliance.

In a report with the headline "Secret mission," the West German news magazine Der Spiegel yesterday disclosed Kohl adviser Horst Teltschik's trip to Moscow on the weekend of May 5-6 for discussions with the Soviet leadership.

Der Spiegel said Teltschik had discussed "financial questions," including Bonn's likely financial support for Soviet troops and the shaky future of East Germany's contracts to supply the Soviet Union with numerous products.

Pan Am suspect suggests 'swap'

LONDON, May 20, (AP): A Palestinian identified as a suspect in the bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet has suggested to West German authorities that he might be exchanged for hostages in Lebanon, the Sunday Times reported.

The newspaper said it had obtained a record of a police interview with Hafez Dalkamoni, who is being held in West Germany in connection with a terrorist case.

A spokesman for West Germany's Interior Ministry, who said he had read the Sunday Times report, denied that there was any consideration of an exchange.

"Again and again, every month, always the same. There is nothing new and nothing different. Just further speculation. I can't add anything to that," said spokesman Roland Bachmeier. Dalkamoni is charged with attempted murder for attacks on US troop trains, and has confessed to a lesser charge of possessing weapons.

He has been identified in news reports as a suspect in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988. The plane's 259 occupants and 11 residents of the town were killed.

The Sunday Times said the police document said Dalkamoni had indicated he might be exchanged for German and Belgian hostages.

"When asked why he had shown such a strong interest in an exchange at the last supervisory visit, Dalkamoni stated that he knew of two Germans in the hands of an Islamic group," the Sunday Times quoted the document as saying.

Dalkamoni is a high-ranking figure in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, a Palestinian group based in Syria. The group's leader, Ahmed Jibril, has denied any involvement in the Pan Am bombing.

Scottish police have confirmed that Jibril's group is one focus of their investigation.

The Sunday Times said the police document quoted Dalkamoni as saying, "It is in the nature of their work for Palestinian organisations, the PFLP-GC included, to try and rescue them by prisoner exchange."

Two West Germans, Heinrich Struëbig, 48, and Thomas Kempfner, 28, were kidnapped in Lebanon on May 16, 1989. Their abduction was linked to Shiite group seeking release of Mohammed Hamadi and Abbas Hamadi.

Mohammed Hamadi was sentenced to life in prison on May 17, 1989 for his role in the hijacking of a TWA airliner in Beirut in 1985. His brother was sentenced to 13 years in prison in 1988 for kidnapping two West Germans in Beirut in hopes of exchanging them for his brother.

Also held hostage are four Belgians — Emmanuel Houckens, 44, his wife Genevieve Keis, 30, son Laurent, 19, and daughter Valerie, 18. The Abu Nidal group said it took them captive from a yacht off the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip on Nov 8, 1987.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said yesterday that action by Western governments could pave the way for a release of all hostages held in the Middle East.

Israel today denied holding any contacts with the Lebanon-based Amal movement or any other party for the release of Israelis, kidnapped or missing in action, in exchange for Shites detained by the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army. Radio Israel reported, quoting high-level security sources.

Doe claims killing Libyan soldiers

MONROVIA, Liberia, May 20, (AP): President Samuel Doe says Libya, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast have sent recruits to fight alongside rebels seeking his overthrow. Doe, speaking at a meeting of county superintendents, elders and chiefs Friday, said his troops had killed five Libyan soldiers in Nimba county. He provided no details.

Rebels led by former bureaucrat Charles Taylor overthrew Doe's Ivory Coast on Dec 24. They have occupied Nimba county, which borders Ivory Coast and Guinea.

The warning follows an attack by EPLF gunboats last week on a Soviet tanker in the Red Sea. The Soviet Union said on Friday it would defend its ships in the area.

Ceausescus' last hours

Film shows dictator's run for life

BUCHAREST, May 20, (UPI): A newly released documentary film portrays Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu as desperately seeking to survive while complaining to their captors of cold quarters and bad salami sandwiches.

The documentary, produced by the filmmaking house Alexandru Sahia and released Friday, contains interviews with witnesses to the deposed president's frantic flight from Bucharest on Dec 22, until his execution with his wife at a military barracks outside the city of Tirgu Viste on Christmas day.

One man whose car was hijacked by the Ceausescus after they were whisked by helicopter to Snagov said they pleaded with him to take them to safety.

"I'm old. I'm sick. I'm not a (Communist) Party member. What can I do?" he said he told the couple. "How can I describe the look of terror in their eyes? It was as if I had condemned them to death."

Through a long chain of involuntary drivers, the Ceausescus were moved from one spot to another, until one of their chauffeurs stopped at an agricultural centre outside the Tirgu Viste west of Bucharest, where he ran inside to seek help.

The driver, Nicolae Petrica, found the entire staff of the centre huddled in one room around a television set that was broadcasting news of Ceausescu's fall from power after 24 years.

"I tried to find someone to save me, but a woman screamed, 'Why did you bring them here?' and they all ran away," the driver said.

At that moment, police in the area closed in. "When the police came in and took them away, it was the happiest moment of my life," Petrica said, his voice breaking.

The 90-minute documentary said the Ceausescus were then turned over to the army and taken to a military barracks in the area. Soon Ceausescu's dreaded police force, the Securitate, found them through a transmitter in the fallen president's watch and the barracks came under attack.

"At the barracks they complained of the cold, at a time when others couldn't stand the heat of the room after an hour," said Sgt. Maj. Ion Enache.

The couple was offered brown bread and salami, a traditional soldiers' meal. "He told us we kept him hungry and thirsty and were traitors, and the salami was bad and the bread was stale and he wouldn't eat it because he had to have a special diet," the army man said.

A doctor, describing Ceausescu's inability to come to terms with reality, said when the ousted president submitted to a medical examination, he waited in vain for someone to remove his coat — and waited again in vain for someone to put it on after the exam was complete.

Ceausescu told the doctor he had diabetes, but was unable to describe the medication he took every morning — another indication his every whim was attended to when he was at the pinnacle of power in one of Europe's poorest countries.



Iliescu takes his wife Victoria by the arm as he leaves a Bucharest polling station early May 20. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ethiopian forces attack besieged Eritrean capital of Asmara

ADDIS ABABA, May 20, (Reuters): Ethiopian forces have attacked and destroyed rebel forces who were shelling the airport of Asmara, capital of the northern Eritrean province, the official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) reported today.

Asmara has been under siege since the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) captured the Red Sea port Masawa in February and cut the 100-km (62-mile) highway linking the cities.

The ENA said that it called the rebel

attempt to dismember Ethiopia had been "defused" and their forces destroyed.

It added that the Ethiopian army and local militia were engaged to a fierce struggle against the combined forces of the EPLF and the Tigra People's Liberation Front (TPLF) around Masawa and in southern Eritrea.

The agency gave no details of the fighting, but the EPLF said last week that its forces were shelling Asmara as fierce fighting raged on a front 30 km (19 miles) from

the city. The ENA said the two rebel groups had joined to attack government forces with the aim of dividing Ethiopia. The attacks on Asmara airport were also meant to block an airlift of relief food to famine victims in the region, it said.

Since the loss of Masawa, Asmara has been dependent on airborne supplies for its population of about a million civilians and 100,000 troops.

Ethiopia has appealed for international

funds to finance a large-scale airlift for an estimated four million famine victims in the north.

In a warning telexed to Reuters in Nairobi, the EPLF told the Soviet Union to keep its ships away from Red Sea areas held by the EPLF.

The warning follows an attack by EPLF gunboats last week on a Soviet tanker in the Red Sea. The Soviet Union said on Friday it would defend its ships in the area.



Aiding the wounded

A Palestinian man receives emergency medical treatment from an Israeli ambulance team yesterday after an Israeli attacked a group of Palestinians waiting to be picked up for work inside Israel. Seven Palestinians were shot dead and nine others wounded by the Israeli who police authorities say is deranged. (Reuters wirephoto)

US asked to raise quota for Jews

MOSCOW, May 20, (Reuters): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said yesterday he had asked the United States to raise immigration quotas for Soviet citizens, especially for Jewish citizens.

US Secretary of State James Baker told a separate news conference he had expressed concern to Soviet officials about reports of anti-Semitic incidents in the Soviet Union.

The two men spoke to reporters after four days of talks to prepare for a superpower summit in Washington at the end of the month.

Shevardnadze said he told Baker the superpowers should press Israel to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories. But this problem could be eased if Washington raised its immigration quotas.

"We said we would take a positive view if the United States would raise its quotas to allow more Soviet immigrants into the United States," he said.

"We did not name a figure. I should say in fairness that the United States has been increasing the quota already, to about 70,000."

As Moscow liberalises its immigration policies, more Soviet Jews are leaving than the United States has been willing to accept. Most of the remainder are flocking to Israel.

Israel expects 150,000 Soviet Jews to arrive this year and Arab states fear they will replace Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Baker said that during talks with Shevardnadze and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev he raised US concerns about anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and the vital need for the Soviet Union to break out strongly against it.

"I don't think the rise of anti-Semitism we see is in any way contrived. I believe the leadership of the Soviet Union regrets the increased incidents we are seeing," he said.

Baker did not elaborate, but there have been increasing reports of verbal and written threats of pogroms against Jews, particularly in Moscow and Leningrad.

Shevardnadze, asked about Baker's comments, said there had been some "isolated incidents of that kind."

He said direct and indirect talks had been

Syrians halt Shiite flare-up

Arab panel meets

BEIRUT, May 20, (AP): Syrian troops moved today to halt street battles between rival Shiite Muslim factions in which at least three people were killed and 25 others wounded.

The fighting broke out in the southern town of Sidon, where a group of Shiite Muslims, known as the "Fatah" or "Fatah al-Shi'a", were fighting against a group of Sunni Muslims, known as the "Fatah al-Sunni".

The fighters from the fundamentalist Iranian-backed Hezbollah and the pro-Syrian Amal militia battled with jeeps, mounted 106mm cannons, rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons.

The Syrians today encountered no resistance when they moved through the deserted streets, flattening earth barricades and dismantling sandbagged positions used by both sides.

Hezbollah and Amal have been clashing since May 1987 in a struggle for mastery of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shiites, the country's largest sect.

At least 1,044 people have been killed and 3,094 wounded in the intermittent war in Beirut and south Lebanon over the last three years.

Heavy fighting raged after midnight around the nine-storey Iranian cultural mission in Mos-saitbeh.

The building, pockmarked with bullet holes from earlier fighting, was hit by several rocket-propelled grenades during the night.

Broken glass littered the streets around the mission. Police said two Lebanese persons suffered minor wounds. But no Iranians were hurt as they hurriedly abandoned the building when the fighting erupted.

The Syrians maintain 40,000 troops in predominantly Muslim areas of Lebanon. They intervened in 1976 under an Arab League peacekeeping mandate in an effort to quell Lebanon's civil war, then in its second year.

In East Beirut and the Christian hinterland north of the capital, police reported that sporadic sniping marred a two-day-old lull in fighting between rebel Gen. Michel Aoun's troops and Christian warrior Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia.

No casualties were reported in the 310-square-mile (800-square-km) Christian enclave, where the rival factions have been fighting since Jan 30 for control of the enclave.

At least 1,031 people have been killed and 2,769 wounded in the showdown, which has so far failed to produce a clear-cut victory.

Meanwhile, foreign ministers of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon today concluded their second working session in Riyadh, which was attended by committee's envoy to Lebanon Lakhdar Al Ibrabimi and Ambassadors of Algeria and Morocco Abdul Qadir Saleh and Ahmed Ramzi respectively.

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Yemeni unification soon: Saleh

SANAA, May 20, (Reuters): North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh confirmed that his country will unite with South Yemen within days.

"Unification of the (two) Yemens is coming in a few days... perhaps before the end of this month," President Saleh said on television.

"All preparations have been completed," he added on yesterday in the first official confirmation that the merger is imminent. Officials have indicated unification will be proclaimed on May 27, but an Arab summit set for May 28 appears to have upset the plan and the date is now expected to be moved a few days either way.

Saleh said a united Yemen would be a source of stability for the Arabian peninsula and the Gulf. He has called a special meeting of the North Yemeni Parliament for tomorrow.

The formerly Marxist-ruled South and the conservative-ruled North agreed last year to unite by November this year.

Saddam sending envoy to Assad

Moves on to persuade Syria to attend summit

NICOSIA, May 20, (AP): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein will send a personal emissary to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, his archrival, to ask him to attend an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad May 28, the official Iraqi news agency reported today.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said Saddam made the decision after telephone consultations with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt earlier today.

INA did not name the envoy. But the announcement marked a major step by Saddam to end his long-running feud with Assad, who has

refused to attend the Baghdad session.

Mediation efforts earlier this month by Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt all failed.

Assad has insisted that the summit venue and agenda must first be discussed at an emergency meeting of foreign ministers of the 22-member Arab League in Tunisia.

But Iraq has said the summit will go ahead as planned in Baghdad, preceded May 22 by a foreign ministers meeting to set the agenda.

Assad and Saddam are bitter personal enemies. Their countries have been ruled by rival wings of the Baath Arab Socialist Party for 20 years.

The feud deepened during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war when Syria supported Iran. Saddam backed anti-Syrian Christians in Lebanon last year, thwarting Assad's efforts to end the 15-year-old civil war there.

Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat, an ally of Saddam's, called for the emergency summit last month to forge a united Arab effort to counter large-scale emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and to discuss other pressing Middle East issues.

For the Iraqis, a summit in Baghdad would also be seen as a demonstration of Arab support for Saddam against what he perceives as a concerted Western campaign against him over his efforts to build up Iraq's military muscle.

The Syrians have so far been reluctant to do anything that will be seen as bolstering Iraq.

For most Arabs, the major issue is the prospect of mass Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, dramatically changing the demographic equation in the Middle East and bolstering Israeli opposition to peace talks.

The Arabs fear that many of the Soviet Jews will settle in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, territories roughly encompassing the independent Palestinian state declared in 1988. Israel denies there will be major settlement in the occupied zones.

Assad has been under pressure from Arab leaders to set aside his feud with Saddam in the interest of Arab unity.

In Damascus, a senior PLO official met Syrian leaders in Damascus today for talks apparently aimed at persuading Syria to attend the summit in Baghdad, Palestinian and Arab diplomats reported.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Hani Al Hasan, political and security adviser to Arafat, arrived without fanfare in the Syrian capital yesterday.

The PLO and the Syrians have not officially announced the visit by Hasan, who is also a member of the Central Committee of Arafat's Fatah movement, the biggest group in the PLO.

Hasan is the highest ranking PLO official to visit Syria in more than two years.

He accompanied Arafat when the PLO chairman visited Damascus April 24, 1988, in an abortive attempt to end a feud with Assad triggered by a Syrian-backed mutiny by Palestinian radicals in 1983.

Nonetheless, Syrian Information Minister Mohammed Salman told Arab journalists yesterday that "Syria is open to all Arabs and to all Palestinian leaders."

The PLO announced Friday that Arafat had sent a letter to the Damascus government asking Syria to reverse its stand.

Assad received another letter yesterday from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. It was carried to Damascus by Algerian Foreign Minister Sayed Ahmed Ghazali.

It protests at a quota system cutting the numbers it can send by two-thirds to 50,000 and objects to a ban on political demonstrations.

Tehran has said it will maintain the boycott until the number of pilgrims is restored to 150,000. Diplomats said yesterday that Riyadh was willing to raise the quota to 60,000 for this year's pilgrimage, or Haj, starting late next month.

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MIDEAST BRIEFS

3 escape from Israeli jail: Troops using helicopters and dogs searched the occupied West Bank for three people who escaped from a high-security prison in central Israel on Sunday, army and Arab sources said.

The army described the escapees from Megiddo jail as "security prisoners," a term used for Palestinians detained for anti-Israeli acts.

Palestinians said security forces with bloodhounds, military vehicles and helicopters were searching the northern West Bank town of Jenin and surrounding villages. (Reuters)

Jarash fest to open: Despite protest by Muslim groups, the 10th Jarash cultural festival will open in the historical city on July 11.

Several members of the Jordanian Parliament who represent Muslim Brotherhood have called on the government to cancel the 10th festival arguing that it contradicts Islamic values and traditions.

Musical bands from different Arab and European countries take part in the annual cultural festival which is supervised by the Cultural Ministry. (Kuna)

UN group for Israel: A United Nations delegation of three envoys from the US, Austria and Sweden will arrive in Israel next week to discuss with Israeli officials the Egyptian proposal for making the Middle East a nuclear free zone, an Israeli paper said Sunday. (Reuters)

Daily Haartz said that the delegation will visit other countries in the Middle East to study their stance on the same proposal. (Kuna)

Foreigners face Aids test: Egypt's minister of health called on Friday for all foreigners staying in the country for more than a month to be tested for Aids, and said those who tested positive should be sent back home immediately.

"We should test any foreigner coming to the country for longer than one month to work, train, study or do anything else," the official newspaper Al-Ahram quoted Health Minister Dr Raghib Dawidar as saying. (UPI)

Tunis infant mortality rate: Mortality rate among Tunisian infants is high averaging 651 per thousand, according to a medical study published in Tunis Saturday.

The study, co-authored by a Tunisian team of four physicians including a woman doctor, compared the figure to that recorded in Sweden and Switzerland in the 1930s. (Kuna)

New Sudan group: A debate over recommendations and suggestions on a proposed political organisation in Sudan started in Khartoum under an advisory body created by the ruling Revolutionary Command Council. (RCC). (Kuna)

Meets Mubarak Arafat in Cairo

CAIRO, May 20, (Agencies): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat for more than two hours, it was announced here today.

The two Arab leaders first met alone for one hour then their advisers and top officials joined them for another hour and a half.

Arafat, who arrived here last night from Tunisia, has been making intensive contacts with Arab leaders in pre-summit exchanges on a number of issues topped by threats and challenges facing the Arab world.

Yesterday in Tunis, Arafat met with President Zein Al Abidine Bin Ali who just returned from a trip to the United States where he met with President George Bush and top White House officials.

The Palestinian leader is expected to hold another round of talks with Mubarak later today to continue the consultations on the extraordinary summit which will be held in Baghdad on May 28th.

Mystic works miracles

Pilgrims flock to tomb

EL ABIODH SIDI CHEIKH, Algeria, May 20, (Reuters): The white domed tomb of North African mystic Sidi Cheikh shimmers between the palm trees and tall grass on the edge of the Sahara desert.

As the sun sets over nearby sand dunes, villagers wind their way along a dusty path to pay tribute to the man many believe still works miracles four centuries after his death.

"Some people from the region come daily. They believe the man about (Muslim holy man) will cure their illnesses and solve their personal problems," said Djelloul Smahi, a descendant of Sidi Cheikh who died in 1616.

At its peak in the mid-18th century, the cult of Sidi Cheikh spread from the Tunisian border to eastern Morocco and as far south as the Hoggar Mountains near modern-day Niger.

Sidi Cheikh's descendants were renowned warriors and led some of the fiercest Algerian resistance to invading French armies.

"Sidi Cheikh was a great man. When I arrive here the first thing I do is visit him, even before seeing my relatives," said Abu Bakr, a native of the village who now lives 350 km (220 miles) away in the coastal city of Oran.

In the tomb's cool interior, the faithful step over decorative tiles to a vaulted chamber where the marabout rests in a coffin draped in faded green velvet. Garish prayer rugs and fabric gifts from flowers, cover the ceiling and pedestal.

On a recent evening a steady stream of visitors queued up to enter the ornately painted wood doors. Some stroked the coffin with both hands in wide circular motions. Others bent down and kissed it. Abu Bakr closed his eyes and muttered a prayer.

Visitors may ask for good health, for a boy if they have too many girls, or even harm to their enemies. Some pick up sand from the floor and swallow grains to ward off illness.

Sidi Cheikh was born Abdelqader Ben Mohammed Ben Sliman Ben Abou Smaha near the village of Chellala in 1533 but as his fame

spread he became known simply as "The Sheikh" (wise man).

His path toward mystical union with God, both contested by other sufi Muslim scholars of his time, is described and defended in a long poem he wrote called the Yaquouta.

Old men of the village still gather around the tomb every Friday morning at dawn to recite excerpts.

Tales of Sidi Cheikh's wisdom and near-divine powers abound.

Off the road leading through valleys and oases toward the giant dunes of the Sahara's eastern edge two stone depressions are said to be knee prints left by his horse as it carried him on a voyage underground.

Followers also revere human shapes in stone said to be those of bandits he petrified. Some believe Sidi Cheikh's tomb itself, erected by a great grandson in 1750, was the work of angels.

Sidi Cheikh was a master in battle and is said to have died of wounds suffered while fighting the Spanish in Oran.

A descendant, Cheikh Bou Amama, inflicted a stinging defeat on the French in 1881 in which 80 enemy soldiers were killed.

A French colonel, acting without authorisation, was so incensed that he blew up Sidi Cheikh's tomb with 250 kilos (550 pounds) of gunpowder after removing the body. The current tomb was rebuilt by the French in 1885.

The highest tribute comes at the annual pilgrimage or rakeb, normally held in June. Nomadic tribesmen arrive on richly clothed horses, mules and camels, the women in white, the men in robes and coloured straw hats, banging tambourines and howling horns.

Orthodox Muslim scholars view the North African reverence for marabouts as somewhat heretical and the cults have been attacked by Algeria's rising fundamentalist movement.

But Sidi Cheikh's more educated followers say they revere him not as a miracle-worker but as a spiritual teacher.



Arafat

UK nurse Sentence suspended

MANAMA, May 20, (AP): Qatar's appeal court today upheld a two-month prison sentence against British nurse Valerie Coakes for wilfully harming a bedouin infant's virginity.

But the court suspended the sentence for three years.

Mrs Coakes, 49, from Manchester, England, was also fined 500 rials (\$137) in the case brought against her by the child's parents last June when she worked at the Hamad Medical Corp. Hospital in Qatar.

"It's a bit of a strange outcome," Mrs Coakes told the Associated Press in Bahrain in a telephone interview. "I'm not very happy with the verdict."

She said she was concerned that the sentence, even if suspended, could affect her nursing career in England.

She will not be able to continue nursing in Qatar because the sentence will be "like a sword of Damocles over my head."

Mrs Coakes has not been barred from travelling and plans to visit her married daughter, Helen Hawkins in Taunton, Somerset, soon.

"My family are happy I'll be coming home. But they're not happy with the verdict."

Mrs Coakes' barrister, an engineer with the Qatar General Petroleum Corp.

When she was arrested last June, she spent a weekend in jail but otherwise has been free while the trial was underway.

Afghan relief groups attacked

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, May 20, (AP): Humanitarian aid groups were attacked for the second time in less than a month by anti-Western Muslim fundamentalists worried about a superpower settlement of the war in Afghanistan, officials said today.

Shelter Now International, financed by Christian groups to co-ordinate reconstruction projects and provide aid to widows and children in Afghanistan, said it was considering shutting down its operation following the attack, in which a security guard was beaten and supplies destroyed.

Also, a relief group financed by the Austrian government reported that its office was ransacked, vehicles and documents stolen, and workers threatened with death, officials said.

No one claimed responsibility for either attack. But officials and Western diplomats blamed radical youth groups linked to Hezb-i-Islami, the most anti-Western of seven resistance parties, for a rash of attacks and threats against the 135 private relief organisations headquartered in Peshawar.

A spokesman for Hezb-i-Islami's leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, labelled the allegations "slandorous propaganda for refusing to obey Western dictates."

Diplomats said the violence has escalated as frustrations increased at the rebels' inability to remove the communist-style government in Afghanistan and with frequent reports that the United States and the Soviet Union are close to an agreement that would end the bloody stalemate and sideline the fundamentalist groups.

Rocket fire wounded two diplomats in the Afghan capital of Kabul, the state news agency Tass reported today.

The bombardment wounded M. Schulenberg, permanent representative of the UN section on the co-ordination of humanitarian and economic aid to Afghanistan, and V. Dulovic, Yugoslavia's charge d'affaires in Kabul, the report said.

Fraud charge on Iran MP

LONDON, May 20, (Kuna): The power struggle in Tehran has spilled over into an exchange of accusations among the country's leaders, a leading British newspaper said today.

The Independent newspaper reported that Iranian Hezbollah leader and member of Parliament Hadi Ghafari has been accused of embezzling government funds and named in the official newspaper, Rasseel.

Ghafari was accused of using public money to take over a profitable knitwear factory, then creaming off the profits and banking them abroad, the paper added.

It noted that a sum of £15 million had been mentioned.

The weekly went on to cite Ghafari as telling the Iranian Parliament that the factory had been "a gift from Imam Khomeini" and retaliating against his accusers by calling for Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Larjani to be put on trial for "suspicious links with foreign powers."

Iran-Saudi talks on pilgrimage quotas fail

NICOSIA, May 20, (Reuters): Iran has confirmed it held talks with Saudi Arabia to try to end a dispute over the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Makkah but accused Riyadh of blocking a solution.

"To show our goodwill we sent a delegation to Saudi Arabia in an attempt to remove the hurdle in the way of sending pilgrims," Iran's Iran news agency yesterday quoted Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Khatami as saying.

He said direct and indirect talks had been

held but gave no other details. Gulf-based diplomats earlier said First Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati met Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal in Riyadh on Monday and Tuesday.

The meeting was the first known diplomatic contact between the two states since Riyadh cut ties in April 1988.

Iran has boycotted the pilgrimage to Makkah and Madina since 1987 when about 400 people, mainly Iranians, were killed in clashes

with security forces.

It protests at a quota system cutting the numbers it can send by two-thirds to 50,000 and objects to a ban on political demonstrations.

Tehran has said it will maintain the boycott until the number of pilgrims is restored to 150,000. Diplomats said yesterday that Riyadh was willing to raise the quota to 60,000 for this year's pilgrimage, or Haj, starting late next month.

Preventive health section dealing with diseases Service workers regularly vaccinated

THE head of preventive health section at Salmiya area, Dr Adel Al Naser said that epidemic disease such as malaria, meningitis, typhoid and hepatitis are contagious and can be easily spread if not countered by health plans.

Explaining medical procedures, he said that samples of blood and excrement of patients are taken to determine the cause of the disease after which they are referred

for treatment.

He added that one of the epidemic disease reported at the section is Hepatitis — which is of two kinds — A and B. The first can be controlled and treated with relative ease and usually affects children. The other is very dangerous and is often caused by having homosexual relations or by using polluted injections. He added that 12 cases of the latter hepatitis were reported

at the Salmiya area in 1986 — only two were Kuwaitis and the other expatriates.

The official went on to state that Malaria usually is brought in by Asian and African expatriates as it is predominant in these countries due to polluted water and patients with this disease are referred to the Sabah Hospital for treatment.

He said that drinking milk of sheep without boiling is the main reason for

typhoid. He disclosed that workers like barbers, ironsmiths, sewage and garbage collectors are given vaccinations at regular intervals.

Meanwhile a health inspector at the section, Sayed Mahmoud said that health inspectors inspect all food dispensed at nurseries and also monitor beaches and swimming pools to ensure they are free of pollution.

Record number of houses distributed

DIRECTOR-GENERAL of the National Housing Authority, NHA, Dr Ibrahim Majed Al Shahin announced yesterday that the authority made a new record last year in the number of housing units distributed.

Shahin said that the NHA distributed in 1989 as many as 4,167 housing units which included 2,855 houses, 979 land plots and 333 apartments. Most of the houses were distributed in Al Qurain housing project with 1,497 houses. Concerning apartments, 320 apartments were distributed in Al Sawabir apartment-style housing project and the remaining 13 in Dahiyat Sabah Al Salem.

Dr Shahin announced that the NHA signed in 1989 a large number of contracts with companies to construct thousands of housing units and public services in accordance with the NHA five-year plan. The value of the contracts signed last year was KD42.9 million. He described East Sulaybiyah Project as one of the most important housing projects the NHA will carry out in the near future.

The project is located on the sea coast beside the new building of the Ministry of Health, east of Sulaybiyah area. The area of the project is 85 hectares and is expected to accommodate between 1,000 to 1,600 housing units. There are studies to construct buildings in the southern part of the project and construct houses with 250 square metres each. Construction in the project is expected to commence in the beginning of 1992 and will be completed in 3 years time.

Yemen parliaments to meet earlier

SANAA, May 20, (AP): The legislative bodies of North and South Yemen will meet tomorrow, three days ahead of schedule, to finalise their countries' merger plans, official sources reported yesterday.

The sources, who spoke on condition of they not be named, said the meeting will be held in Aden, capital of South Yemen.

The same sources said that the North Yemeni parliament will convene early Monday, before its members proceed to Aden for the joint session with the South Yemeni parliamentarians.

"The date for the joint meeting is known ... but not the date for proclaiming the merger," one source said.

Officials had earlier reported that the two parliaments would meet on May 24 in Aden and proclaim the merger on May 26.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh of conservative North Yemen and Ali Salem Al Bekdi, leader of Marxist South Yemen, agreed on Nov 30 to merge their two countries.

Then, the plan was for the parliaments to debate a draft constitution within six months and prepare for national referendums in both countries within another six months before declaring the merger.

The plebiscites plans appear to have been scrapped.

Both parliaments will serve as a legislature for the United Yemen until their term expires in 1993.

Leading the unionist steps being finalised is one for setting up a joint command for the armed forces in the North Yemen city of Taiz, halfway between Sanaa and Aden.

Under the merger, Sanaa will become the capital of the unified Yemen and Saleh will be the leader of a presidential council, with Bekdi as his vice-president.



Kuwait Soviet talks

Official talks were held between the Kuwaiti and Soviet military sides which were held in Kuwait yesterday. The Kuwaiti side was chaired by the Deputy Chief of Staff Maj Gen Jaber Khaled Al Ahmad and the Soviet side was led by the first deputy commander of the Soviet land forces Maj Gen Dr Grenikivlev.

Scientific policies will help to achieve development: Sultan

ASSISTANT Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, KISR, Dr Youssef Al Sultan stressed that the adoption of a scientific and technological policy in the country will help achieve economic and social development plans. Speaking to reporters on the occasion of issuing a book on "Government Priorities in Science and Technology Policy," Dr Sultan insisted on the need for co-ordination among the GCC states concerning national products and on the need to establish a common GCC market.

He said that fast development and advancement in the various scientific and technological fields in the world represent a great challenge for the development countries particularly the Arab and Islamic countries.

He added that such global scientific advances if not adopted, hamper the attempts of the developing countries to achieve political sovereignty and keep away from political affiliation to other countries.

Dr Sultan regretted that self-sufficiency in Arab and Islamic countries to produce and develop technology is very limited at present and in the foreseen future also.

Dr Sultan said that the main cause for this is the absence of declared scientific and technology policies. They also lack regulations for patent, means of transferring technology, a solid base for scientific research and others. He said that the free imports of foreign technology without even experimenting it, results in high costs and hampers independence in taking decisions.

Green licence for all

THE Director-General of the General Traffic Administration Brigadier Abdul Hameed Hajji has said that GCC states agreed upon the green colour for the unified driving licence according to the form submitted by the secretariat of GCC.

He also said the fines of traffic violations committed at any state of GCC will be collected at the country of the violator without need to travel to the country in which he committed the violation to pay the fine. He added that directors of traffic departments in GCC states who met in Doha last week decided to celebrate the Gulf Traffic Week on March 2, 1991 under the slogan "A Week Without Traffic Accidents". He added that GTA will select the unified anthem of traffic which will be distributed to other traffic departments of GCC states to adopt. He advised that the next meeting of traffic directors in GCC states will be held in Kuwait.

Heavy blaze in Ahmadi

A huge blaze occurred at Ahmadi Refinery on May 11 at 11:00pm which lasted for about five hours, a local daily reported. It added that firemen rushed to the scene and put the fire out in the early morning hours pointing out that the extinguishing process had been managed with great difficulty in view of the perils of poison gas.

Meanwhile, the daily learnt that the incident could be attributed to a mechanical fault occurred in the sulphur store No 1 which short circuited the electric conveyor which provides ships with sulphur.

On the other hand, authorities concerned at the refinery have begun an extensive investigation to know the volume of the losses.

Manakh crisis to close, says Marzouk

Dealers owe KD 12.369b

SUPERVISOR of the Post-Dated Deals Liquidation Office of the Manakh Crash, Barak Al Marzouk announced that the office is now preparing to close the Manakh crisis permanently. He said that the amount wanted from all dealers under the custody of the office is about KD 12.369 billion. He added that 312 dealers were referred to the Post-Dated Settlement Establishment and their financial positions were put at KD 8.456 billion.

The referring of 222 dealers was later cancelled while 70 dealers were declared bankrupt and arrangements are being made to declare the bankruptcy of 3 other. Six debtor dealers were referred to the Criminal Court. He added that 17 dealers are still under the custody of the office including 8 still at large outside Kuwait.

Marzouk said that the amounts that exploded the Manakh crash in August 1982 was about KD 26.29 billion. The value of this amount was reduced to only KD 18.436 billion after calculating its value in accordance with some government

laws. He added that after making the general clearance of these amounts, a total of KD 12.369 billion remained wanted.

Value
Marzouk said that the total value of bonds issued by the establishment was KD 1.726 billion. Marzouk revealed that criminal investigations have been initiated in several cases through the general prosecution after the office accused dealers of hiding or smuggling funds. He also said that the office has asked the assistance of Interpol and Kuwaiti diplomatic missions abroad to follow up the foreign assets of dealers referred to the office.

The Arbitration Panel, a committee set up to tackle the legal issues of the Manakh crisis, issued over 11,000 verdicts against indebted dealers under the custody of the Post-Dated Settlement Establishment. The value of these verdicts were KD 6.545 billion. It held 5,230 settlements of the post-dated deals. The value of the settlements was KD 5.148 billion. It also issued 2,885 verdicts on disputes of post

dated deals. The value of these verdicts was put at KD 1.734 billion.

Verdicts
The Arbitration Panel also issued 1,486 verdicts verifying debts among dealers under the custody of the post-dated settlement. The value of these verdicts was put at KD 8.638 billion.

Thus, the panel issued over 21,000 verdicts and the value of them was about KD 22.128 billion. The panel completed its work along with the establishment in 1988 and was replaced by the Post-Dated Deals Liquidation Office to complete the remaining work.



Dinner reception

Mohammed Merchant — managing partner of Hassan Jowhar Hayat Sons Company, building materials division hosted a dinner party at his residence in Mishref in honour of the Indian ambassador and his wife. The party was attended by chief of protocol Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ambassadors of various countries, various businessmen and friends.

Picture shows from left to right: Wan Hussein Mustapha, ambassador of Malaysia; Ahmed Al Ayoub, chief of protocol Ministry of Foreign Affairs; A.K. Budhiraja, ambassador of India; Guan Zhurui, ambassador of People's Republic of China; the host, Mohammed Merchant; Hassan Dervishbegovic, ambassador of Yugoslavia; Shahbuddin, Ambassador of Bangladesh; Solt, the ambassador of South Korea and Mrs Eapen.

Consumers bemoan hike in prices

Union partly blamed

A LOCAL daily has carried out a series of interviews with random specimens of people to find out their views on the current prices of essential consumer commodities.

Youssef Abdul Razzak, an employee and father of seven, said that his monthly salary is KD 260 and that the steady increase in commodity prices must be checked in order to protect the consumer.

Maha Yahyawi, a housewife, said that her husband's salary of KD 500 is spent on foodstuffs and household necessities, and that the prices underwent a noticeable increase since the start of Ramadan.

Mohammed Salim Ahmad, said that the current level of salaries are not commensurate with the constantly rising prices of essential commodities such as cheese, fresh vegetables and others and that this placed him in a difficult situation trying to make ends meet.

Zoom
Aliya Ibrahim, a housewife, says that the prices have zoomed beyond reason and that despite the seemingly slight differences in the prices of certain commodities, the situation soon becomes unbearable and this puts the breadwinners of large families in an awkward situation.

She said that the beans bag price jumped from 250 fils to 375 fils and frozen chicken jumped from 300 to 450, soup cubes increased from 35 to 45 fils, and this is not to mention the prices of cheese and Lebanese eggs and others.

Sameera Izzat said that the zooming of prices covered everything — vegetables, fresh and frozen, canned foods, chickens, meats, children goodies and others.

Mohammad Bin Mohammad said that his KD400 a month is not enough and he encounters a great deal of difficulty in trying to make ends meet amidst the constant increase in the prices of essential commodities.

The issue was brought to the attention of the Kuwait Union of Co-operative Consumer Societies, and the matter is still under consideration.

A number of chairmen at local co-ops said that the prices at the co-ops were the best in the market and that they themselves bought all their food supplies and other stuff from the co-ops.

On the other hand, the chairmen of the Sabahiya and Ahmadi societies blamed the rise in prices on the union, which usually came in the form of circulars among the co-ops.

Mishaan Jada'an Al Mutariri said that the union's policy is responsible for the increase in prices because it's not a fixed policy, and this made the prices liable to change unpredictably.

The chairman of the board at Ardiya Co-op, Duhaireen Abal Khalil said that some co-ops would seize every opportunity to jack up their prices, amidst the lack of control by the union.



Cannes film festival

Abdul Sattarnaji of Kuwait (right) presents the Arabic critics prize in Cannes film festival to Youssef Chahine, Egyptian director of "Alexandria more and more" in Cannes yesterday.

Time on hands of retired people

RETIREMENT constitutes a complicated issue — whereas some people uphold the stipulated retirement age, others, tend to be flexible in varying degrees.

To highlight this issue, a local daily interviewed two pensioners.

Ahmed Al Darwish, a 54 year old male previously working as Assistant Director of Administration at the Ministry of Public Health, said that he had retired in 1980 at age 44. He commented that the reason for this early retirement was the absence of my appreciation by senior officials. He added that he had served the ministry for about 27 years and was surprised that a younger man superseded him in seniority designation. He said that at the moment he spends most of his time at the Fishermen's Diwan-ya.

Murder charge

THE Court of Cassation has sentenced an ex-convict charged with the murder of a man following a heated argument and attempted murder of the victim's companion.

The court heard that the incident took place when the victim, walking with his friend in the street, had a misunderstanding with the criminal who passed by in his car.

The defendant was provoked by the argument so he disembarked and stabbed the victim with a knife that he kept under his clothes, but the victim tried to escape. However, the defendant followed the victim and stabbed him again till he succumbed to his wounds.

The victim's companion fled the scene.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier's cable

KUWAIT, May 20, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has received a cable from President of the Kuwait Teachers Society Omar Al Ghirai thanking HH for patronising the 20th Educational Conference, held here during May 12-17.

Sheikh Saad also received a similar cable from President of Kuwait Nursing Society for HH's auspices of the 6th Nursing Week, held in Kuwait recently.

HH sent two reply cables in which he valued the sincere feelings, stressed on the two societies' positive role and lauded their achievements and contribution to the community.

US book exhibition

KUWAIT, May 20, (Kuna): A US book exhibition, depicting changing systems of higher education in America, opened here yesterday at Kuwait University's Faculty of Science building.

The exhibition, inaugurated by assistant university rector for community service and information Dr Rasha Al Sabah, displays 350 text books in all branches of higher education. The five-day event is organised in conjunction with the US embassy here and is open to the public.

Handicraft exhibition

KUWAIT, May 20, (Kuna): Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed yesterday evening inaugurated a handicraft exhibition held by Kuwaiti artist Nora Al Nashmi.

After touring the exhibition, held at the premises of the Islamic Welfare Society, Sheikh Nasser expressed pleasure for inauguration of the exhibition and admiration of its exhibits.

Social Affairs and Labour Ministry officials as well as Kuwaiti personalities and artists attended the inaugural ceremony of the exhibition which will last till Monday.

Iranian envoy

KUWAIT, May 20, (Kuna): State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammed Al Osaime yesterday received Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait Hussein Sadeki.

A well-informed source told Kuna that discussion was limited to bilateral relations and several issues of common interest.

The source also said that Osaime also received ambassadors of the four Scandinavian countries to Kuwait. During the meeting, the discussion focussed on bilateral relations between Kuwait and each of those countries as well as with GCC countries in general, in addition to latest developments in the Middle East region.

Kuwaiti denial

KUWAIT, May 20, (Kuna): Kuwait yesterday denied it is participating by a token force from the navy in the Malaysian naval celebration marking the 56th founding anniversary of its fleet.

An official source of the Defence Ministry said here today that Kuwait will take part by an official delegation representing the Defence Ministry and not with a symbolic force as reportedly said.

Some local newspapers today said that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will participate with symbolic forces in the ceremonies marking the establishment of the Malaysian Naval Force.

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Legal Clinic

SHOULD you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, kindly send your questions to: Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taber, replies to readers' queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13623 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.



I HAVE been working for my present company for over two years on a visa No 18. I may be getting a new visa from another company. As I understand, the procedure is to resign from my present company and come back on the new visa. My boss, and company owner, has threatened me saying he will make sure that I cannot come back to Kuwait for at least one year.

1. Is my understanding of the procedure for a new visa correct?
2. Can I go to UK or US and come back to Kuwait or do I have to go to my country or origin to complete formalities at a Kuwait consulate?
3. Can my boss carry out his threats?
4. Please explain what my present employer is required to do to cancel my visa?

M.C.
1. Yes.
2. Usually, a person has to return to his country of origin to complete the formalities. But you can ask the Social Affairs Ministry if you can go to a third country to do the needful and return; if they say this is acceptable, you can go to the UK or US and return.
3. As long as you don't break the law, or commit an offence, he can't carry out his threats; if your contract is for an unlimited period, or has ended — he can't force you to continue working. However, it is necessary you don't violate the residence laws, and don't do anything to put you in a position that your employer stamps your passport preventing your entry into Kuwait.
4. The company must apply for a cancellation, asking the Social Affairs Ministry to cancel your visa. This procedure won't take much time.

I suggest you tell your present employer that you are going back to your country so that he can cancel your visa, and if you have a new visa, you can return.

I HAVE been working in a company as a labourer since August 1989 on a limited two-year contract. I hold a visa No 18. After completing two years, I would like to get a release. Please inform me how to get a release from my sponsor.

R. Saparamadu
UNDER the present rules, it is not possible to get a release from your sponsor as you have not completed three years service with him. You have also not lived and worked in the country for more than 10 years. According to present rules, you are not eligible to ask for a release and you cannot change your job before completing three years. We don't know what rules would be enacted in the future.

I GOT married in my country and later brought my wife to Kuwait on domestic visa. She was here for about three years and went back to my country for good. Her name was registered in my civil ID card. When I went on vacation, I divorced her and remarried. Now I wish to call my second wife. If she comes, what is the procedure to register her in my civil ID. Will there be a problem.

N.L.P.K.
I CAME to Kuwait in November 1988 under visa No. 18. The salary offered to me was not only not fulfilled but I am under constant threat of being taken to the police under fabricated charges if I resign. I want to resign as I have no peace of mind. I am willing to hear my expenses my employer has incurred in bringing me here. I am also willing to buy my own plane ticket to return home. But I am worried about my employer's threat. Under the Kuwaiti Labour Law, can my employer prevent me from resigning. Please advise.

YOU did not mention your religion; if you are a Muslim it's no problem to include the wives on the Civil ID card; if you are a non-Muslim, get the divorce papers, duly attested by foreign ministries of both your country and Kuwait, and the Kuwait embassy in your country. Submit these papers to the Public Authority for Civil Information; also submit the second marriage certificate and your wife's passport particulars. The authority would do the needful.

RECENTLY, a fellow-workman, who is not under our company's sponsorship, sustained major right leg injury on the work site. A load of about 200 kg fell, resulting in 12 stitches on the worker's forehead. The doctor said he suffered multiple fractures below the right knee joint. What compensation can I expect in the event of such an injury?

D.B.D'Sonza.
IT doesn't matter that he is not under your company's sponsorship provided there was a contract between him and the company to work on the job site.

Damages are paid according to the degree of injury, determined by the examining physician. The compensation is based on the medical report and the percentage of disability.

WE are employed in a company, which has not paid us for more than five months. A few bold employees have resigned and gone to the labour ministry and the court for payment of salaries, settlement and transfer of residence permit. The cases of these employees have been stagnating in the ministry and the court.

The present employees have been threatened with a reduction of salaries without written notice and have been asked to join a sister concern with lower pay.

We have completed more than five years employment with this company. Can we resign — individually or jointly — on the basis of non-payment of salaries and claim full indemnity. Which authorities should be approached to receive our salaries, leave salary and indemnity?

Anocni and others.
AS the company has broken the contract by not paying you, you have the right to terminate your contract and resign. You can go to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to file a case against the company, seeking settlement of unpaid salary and other benefits. If the Social Affairs Ministry officials are unable to settle the dispute through mediation, the case will be forwarded to the court.

I HAVE been working in a private company as an engineer since 1982. Last year, the company's name was changed and a new sponsor came along. But my residence permit continued to be in the name of the old sponsor, and the previous company name.

I have been told that there has been no change in the company file at the Ministry of Social Affairs; the previous owner left and a new one came in; that we will not lose service benefits due to the change; and in due course our residence will be changed to the new sponsor's name.

We have been told that we are working for the 'same company' even though the name and sponsor has changed. And our service benefits will not be lost. Is it true?

If my sponsorship changes in November after renewing my visa, will I be able to seek another job or will the three year rule apply to me?

Farak M.
FROM your letter, it seems that there has been no change in the company; and the change has been in partnership.

As I understand, the change in partnership and the name of the company have been altered according to the 'company contract'. To my knowledge, in such cases, although there has been a change, the contract remains intact. Therefore, in such cases, the company is considered as the same 'sponsor/employer'. And if it is the same employer, you have the right to seek a transfer of residence as you have been with them since 1982, based on the documents — like copies of the change in partnership contract — proving that it was a partnership.

If any problem occurs, you can explain the matter to Social Affairs Ministry officials, who will be able to trace the company file and check the matter. As you say in your letter that your company has told you it's not a change of sponsor.

If there is any change, for instance, there is a different employer other than the present one, then in such a case, you cannot change the job after visa renewal. In this case, you'll have to serve the company for three years before you can seek a transfer your residence.

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Kuwait hopes for summit success

Cabinet approves resolutions

KUWAIT, May 20, (Kuna): The Council of Ministers held a regular meeting here Sunday under the chairmanship of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid A. Al Rashid told reporters the council was briefed on the content of the reply message His Highness the Amir sent to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein which included Kuwait's acceptance to attend an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad.

The message, Rashid said, expressed Kuwait's hopes that the summit would succeed in adopting decisions that would enhance the position of the Arab countries in the world.

The government was also

briefed by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah on his talks with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Dr Sadouo Hammadi who visited Kuwait last week.

Another briefing was presented by Rashid on the visit to the country of Lebanese Speaker of Parliament Hussein Al Hussein who held rounds of talks with senior Kuwaiti officials.

The Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa presented a report on the visit to Kuwait last week by British Energy Secretary of John Wakeham and the talks he held with top Kuwaiti officials in charge of oil and energy issues.

Minister of Education Anwar Al Nouri explained to the Cabinet the outcomes of the annual conference for the Arab

intellectual forum held in Amman.

The forum, Nouri said, examined perceived education problems in the next century and proposed methods for dealing with them collectively through comprehensive co-ordination.

Nouri also briefed the Council of Ministers on his visit to Bahrain last week to participate in the extraordinary session of the general assembly of the Arab education bureau, which discussed the status of the Arabian Gulf University.

Rashid said the council approved a number of resolutions and protocols including an amended version of the international Civil Aviation Treaty and a treaty with China on avoiding double taxation between the

two countries.

The council also approved a protocol between Kuwait and Egypt on establishing a trade centre for each country in the other's capital. A new treaty with Libya has also been approved today eliminating double taxation on activities of air transportation corporations.

According to the minister, the council approved a plan to establish a branch in the city of Jabra for Kuwait Scientific Club in an attempt to extend the services of this important club to all sectors of the society.

A proposal for increasing the budget of the public authority for minor affairs for the coming fiscal year (1990/91) was approved by the Cabinet, Rashid disclosed.

Cyprus denies facilitating Soviet Jews emigration

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

CYPRUS President Georges Vassiliou yesterday denied his country was playing any role in facilitating the emigration of Soviet Jews for settlement in Israel.

Addressing a news conference, Vassiliou reiterated his country's support for Palestinian self-determination and said: "Cyprus (has not been) used as a 'centre for Russian Jews resettling in Israel'."

Resettlement of Soviet Jews in the West Bank has irked many Arab governments, who have protested at the alleged use of Cyprus as a transfer point by the Soviet airline, Aeroflot.

He admitted Aeroflot uses Cyprus as a stopover on flights to many countries including Damascus and Tel Aviv but he denied that it was a transit point for emigrating Soviet Jews.

"Since the question came up, Cyprus has monitored the flow of Soviet Jews," he said. "Tourists, not settlers, are passing through Cyprus," he claims.

"We have looked at the numbers, counted the numbers of Soviet Jews passing through

Cyprus) and only a small number go to Israel, not to Palestine. The number of Russians who have come and go is about the same; few more going back (to Soviet Union) than (they are) coming (for resettlement)," he said.

"We have made it clear to our Soviet friends that we do not want, under any circumstances, to (use) Cyprus as a point for settling (Soviet Jews)," he said. The issue would not harm the present friendly ties between Cyprus and Soviet Union, he added.

Replying to a question on Arab-Gulf countries playing a mediatory role in resolving the Cyprus issue, Vassiliou said: "We believe that every country, particularly the GCC, can play a role in bringing forward a solution to the benefit of everyone."

"Kuwait and GCC can help by supporting (UN) Security Council resolution for a federal republic and (help) find a peaceful solution to the problem," he said.

Negotiations continue for a UN-sponsored plan for Cyprus unity. Recent talks between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots, held under the auspices of the UN, broke down.



Vassiliou... fruitful.

Vassiliou said: "If one side goes to talks and says no federation and (want to) secede, the talks cannot go on." But he expressed the hope that a solution would soon be found.

The Cypriot President, who left Kuwait yesterday after a two-day official visit, said his talks with HH the Amir were fruitful.

The two leaders, who met at the Bayan Palace, discussed bilateral ties and means of developing them.

Vassiliou said he discussed various aspects of the Cyprus problem with HH the Amir. They also reviewed the prospects of developing bilateral relations. "It has been agreed (that there is) plenty of scope for development," he said.

Vassiliou said the two countries would, specifically, promote establishing joint ven-

tures. The Cyprus Development Bank and an equivalent Kuwait institution will work out ways to develop joint ventures in trade and co-operation in service sectors.

Kuwait has funded a major highway and sewage network development projects. Financial aid is given through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the key foreign lending body.

Vassiliou ruled out a political settlement to the problem of 50 Kuwaitis who lost £2 million after investing in a private real estate company in 1980. The matter, which has been taken to court in Cyprus, has been dragging since then.

"It will be settled through justice (department)," he said.

Although the government was not involved with the investments made by the private company, A. Parris and Group, the issue has been taken up. Ms. Maria A. Kyriacou, who accompanied the president, held talks with several Kuwaitis affected by the bankruptcy. Further talks are to be held to find a solution.

The Cypriot President said the matter will be settled through mediation and, although the legal process takes time, there is no way to handle the problem.

Vassiliou also visited the Kuwait National Museum and the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiya. He was accompanied by the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the head of the Mission of Honour Faisal Abdul Razak Al Khalid.

Islamic art collection to go on display in USA

Baltimore inaugural venue

WASHINGTON, May 20, (Kuna): More than 100 masterworks of Islamic art from a private collection in Kuwait that testifies to the richness and diversity of Muslim patronage of the arts over more than 100 years ago will be on display to Americans by the end of this year and early next year.

Starting on Dec 9, 1990 and until Feb 17, 1991, the famous Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, Maryland, about an hour away from Washington, DC will be the inaugural venue of the exhibition's North American tour after an advance showing in Leningrad.

This major international loan exhibition is drawn from the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiya (DAA). This private collection on permanent loan to Kuwait National Museum is considered one of the foremost collections in Islamic art in the world.

Although selected pieces have been loaned to international exhibitions featuring Islamic art of the same period of the region, this is the first time the richness and vast scope of the collection will be displayed outside of Kuwait.

All works come from the Dar Al Athar, the 20,000-piece private collection of Sheikh Hussab Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah and her husband Sheikh Nasser on permanent loan to the Kuwait National Museum.

Sheikha Hussab, daughter of the former Amir of Kuwait, is the director of the Kuwait National Museum and one of the principal organisers of "Islamic Art and Patronage" exhibition in the US.

The exhibition includes 107 items produced between the 8th and 18th century in the major cultural centres of the entire Islamic world. It includes unique examples of illustrated and illuminated manuscripts, ceramics, glass, metalwork, stonework, textiles and rugs.

The exhibit's central focus is one of the diverse social classes that sponsored the art, ranging from caliphs, sultans, and shahs, to royal families, emirs and wealthy merchants. It traces the cultural achievements of Islamic societies, extending from Afghanistan to Spain.

The exhibition is divided into four chronological sections: Early Islam (622-1050), characteristically Islamic motifs and decorative concepts were formulated; classical Islam (1050-1250), when the arts had an unprecedented flowering; post-classical Islam (1250-1500), when established traditions were refined and the arts of the book reached their splendour; and late Islamic (1500-1800), when splendid items were produced in the courts of great

emperors. Interestingly, all objects included in the show were originally functional and not purely decorative.

Highlights

Highlights of the exhibition include a carved marble capital from Spain, dated 972-973. The capital belongs to a series of hundreds of columns made for the palace of Madinat Al Zahra near Cordova begun in 936 by Caliph Abdul Rahman II and continued by his son Al-Hakam II.

Other capitals from the same structure are in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Musée du Louvre in Paris, Museo Arqueológico in Madrid, and in situ on the original site.

A second highlight is a carved wood panel from 11th century Egypt. The panel epitomises the high level of artistic expression achieved under the Fatimid dynasty and pictures two gazelles flanking a central palm tree. Its lively and naturalistic representation is characteristic of Fatimid art.

Also deserving mention is an inland brass basin, made for an officer of Sultan Al Malik Al Nasir in Egypt or Syria in the first half of the 14th century.

Another highlight is a star-pattern rug from 17th century Turkey. Usak, a city in western Anatolia, has been famous for its beautiful rugs since at least the 15th century.

The Kuwaiti exhibition of Islamic art will be accompanied by a comprehensive catalogue, edited by Dr Esin Atil, and including a full complement of colour plates.

Documentary

Dr Atil, historian of Islamic art at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur Sackler Gallery in Washington, DC, will serve as guest curator for the exhibition. In 1987, Dr Atil was guest curator at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, where she organised the landmark exhibition, "The Age of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent."

Also produced in conjunction with the exhibition will be a one-hour documentary on Islamic art and culture, written, directed, and produced by filmmaker Jo Franklin-Troun.

After leaving the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, the exhibition will travel to the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas (March 16-May 11) and then to Emory University Museum of Art and Archaeology in Atlanta (June 7).

Reservations are also being made at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia (Nov 23-Jan 18, 1992) and the St Louis Museum of Art, in St Louis, Michigan (Feb. 15-April 11, 1992).

17,387 adults studying at literacy centres

ADULT education and literacy eradication centres of the Ministry of Education total 139 centres, contain 677 classrooms and provide for education to 17,387 individuals.

These figures are as per statistics issued by the planning department of the ministry and related to the year 1989/1990.

The total number of teachers amount to 2,185 with 447 administrative staff.

Statistics indicate that 28.8 per cent of male students and 25 per cent females were registered at centres in the Jabra Educational Area, with the smallest percentage being enrolled at Hawalli Educational Area, comprising of 9.5 per cent males and 11.9 per cent females.

Comparatively, in the year 1988/1989, there were 21,507 students and this is a clear indication that the state's policy to eradicate illiteracy is proving to be successful.

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ARAB TIMES

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TO ERR is human, to forgive, divine. — Alexander Pope, author.

Liberia rebellion

Rebels gear up for showdown

TAPETA, Liberia. (Reuters) Liberian rebels led by a US-educated economics graduate and armed with everything from bows and arrows to bazookas are training for a final showdown with President Samuel Doe.

"I'm going to attack (the capital) Monrovia soon and remove Doe and if I can catch him we will put him on trial," Charles Taylor, leader of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), told reporters this week at his news conference in rebel-held territory.

Taylor was speaking at an abandoned Baptist mission at Tapeta, about 250 km (160 miles) west of Monrovia, which serves as a rebel military camp.

Surrender

Tapeta is one of three towns in Liberia's northeastern Nimba County where Doe last week proposed rebels could surrender to government troops. The rebels say they have held it since March.

Taylor's route as he drove in a saloon car to the camp along dusty, rutted roads was lined with hundreds of people chanting "Mr Taylor, our leader."

"Canibals, cannibals, these people are animals," Taylor said of Doe and associates of the president, who seized power in a bloody 1980 coup.

Doe, who has survived an estimated eight coup attempts, has vowed to crush the six-month old rebellion.

Taylor said he would be willing to negotiate an end to the uprising, but added "Doe must go."

Taylor is a 42-year-old cigar-smoking, teetotal Baptist who admits to having been jailed twice in the United States. Washington said this month it had evidence he had been financed by Libya.

He said he will install a pro-Western capitalist government in Liberia and will hold elections at some future date, although he declined to say when.

Libya

Taylor denied he received any help from Libya, saying if he were "by now this would be over."

He said he invaded Nimba County six months ago with 150 men armed with two rifles and three machetes. He now claims to be in control of at least half of the country and says his army of 10,000 guerrillas is poised to attack Monrovia soon.

It is a ragtag, T-shirted army of men and women, some as young as 13, some shod in plastic, strap-on uniforms, wearing headgear varying from baseball caps and motorcycle helmets to fedoras.

Taylor said many of their weapons were confiscated from government soldiers who dropped them and ran.

Alfred May, a rebel commander, said he led a force of five rebels who seized Tapeta on March 23, killing 60 government soldiers and taking just one prisoner.

Liberia's civilian population has borne the brunt of injuries and deaths during the rebellion. Diplomats and aid workers estimate civilian casualties in the hundreds or even thousands from what in many respects has become a tribal war between the Gios of Nimba and Doe's dominant Krahn tribe living nearer Monrovia.

Refugee workers say as many as 370,000 people, a tenth of the population, have fled into the bush or to neighbouring countries.

At a company hospital on an American-owned rubber plantation, which two weeks ago came under rebel control, children displayed bullet wounds and bandages covering the stumps of severed limbs.

Twelve-year-old Emmanuel Weh had his right arm amputated after it was severed by bullets, which he said were fired by government troops who raided his village last week. A baby was wounded in the same attack.

At a nearby village, rebels led supporters to two pits containing the bloated bodies of 15 people, glistening from six days' exposure to the sun.

They said the people in Sista, a village near the port city of Buchanan, were roused from their sleep along with residents of five other villages by about 100 soldiers on May 9. They were lined up against a hut wall, striped and shot.

Many of those who escaped were wounded or maimed. Rebels and witnesses estimated 33 people were killed.

The government has denied accusations of army atrocities. Taylor said that if Doe puts up strong resistance for Monrovia, which has a population of 500,000, it could be bloodier than anything yet seen in the conflict.

"If we have to attack the city, Doe is going to try to predict our position and as usual he has always used heavy shells," Taylor said. "So we have to respond with materials that we have — and we have 106mm howitzers captured from Doe."

Meanwhile, life is grimmer and grimmer for the impoverished civilians of rural Liberia, who had little to begin with and have lost much of what they had.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1471 — England's King Henry VI dies in Tower of London.

1650 — Scotsman James Graham, marquess of Montrose, is executed.

1813 — Indecisive battle of Bautzen, Germany, between France's Napoleon Bonaparte and armies of Prussia and Russia, ends with heavy losses on both sides.

1832 — First Democratic national convention is held in Baltimore.

1894 — Serbian constitution of 1869 is restored.

1927 — US aviator Charles A. Lindbergh reaches Paris, completing first solo airplane flight across Atlantic Ocean.

1941 — President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaims "an unlimited state of national emergency," seven months before the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor.

1944 — Allied forces break through Hitler line in Italy in World War II.

1956 — First hydrogen bomb is exploded by United States over Bikini Atoll in Pacific.

1964 — United States discloses that US planes are making reconnaissance flights over central Laos to gain information on communist forces.

1965 — Colombia government decrees nation-wide state of emergency following widespread student disorders.

1967 — More than 300 people perish in department store fire in Brussels, Belgium.

1970 — West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Willy Brandt and Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev hold second summit meeting, which ends in stalemate.

1972 — Thailand government resigns seven months after being swept into power by student rebellion that overthrew military rule.

1982 — British troops attack Argentine-held Falkland Islands, with British military saying it has established beach-head at Port San Carlos.

1983 — Five people are injured and several arrested when demonstrators protesting Nazi storm troops reunion in Bad Hersfeld, West Germany, clash with neo-Nazi and riot police.

1984 — In Bombay, India, troops battle thousands of rioters in Hindu-Muslim violence that claimed 108 lives.

1985 — After taking fertility drugs, Pauli Frustaci of California, gives birth to the first recorded American septuplets.

1988 — Soviet Communist Party dismisses party leaders in southern republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, where 32 people died in ethnic turmoil so far in 1988.

Reforms affect East bloc-Arab relations

Special ties coming to end

BERLIN, (WNL) In East Berlin's diplomatic registry, the mission of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) is listed as the Embassy of the State of Palestine, and the mission's chief, Dr Essam Kamal Salim, has the title of ambassador.

East Germany's recognition of the Palestinian state-in-exile is just one aspect of the political, moral and material support that the communist governments of Eastern Europe provided the Palestinians and many Arab states for more than two decades. Arab diplomats and Middle East experts in Berlin agree that this special relationship is now coming to an end and they are looking for a new basis on which to forge relations.

"We have to put our Middle East policy into the framework of the democratic renewal in our country," explains Reiner Neumann, the director of the Middle East Division of the East German Foreign Ministry. Neumann is now negotiating with Israel on the establishment of diplomatic relations between East Berlin and Tel Aviv.

"We have to have a more balanced Middle East policy than we had in the past," says Neumann. "We have to accept the new realities." The old realities were that the Soviet bloc almost automatically sided with Arab countries against Israel in the United Nations and elsewhere, that the bloc countries provided their allies in the Arab world with massive economic, military and technical aid and that thousands of Arab students were granted places at universities and schools throughout Eastern Europe.

In addition, the East bloc's secret services, such as East Germany's notorious Stasi, secretly provided weapons, training and intelligence to extremist groups. East German Foreign Ministry officials say they were shocked to discover that Stasi's foreign section had long engaged in actions in the Middle East that often ran counter to the government's official policy. The security service's unsanctioned and covert Middle Eastern policies came to light during recent, widely publicized investigations of its operations.

Said Neumann, "Right down to foreign affairs the Stasi was a state within a state." But he admitted that even in the foreign ministry "we made serious mistakes." New transitional or democratically elected governments in Eastern Europe are now hasten-

ing to correct these "mistakes." Instead of continuing to oppose the spread of "capitalist imperialism" in the Third World they are concentrating their efforts on rebuilding their own shattered political and economic institutions and forging good relations with the wealthy West.

In East Germany the Stasi has been dismantled, the Communist foreign minister has been voted out of office and diplomats once loyal to the Communist Party are preparing the ground for their professional survival in a unified Germany. Not surprisingly, foreign policy is now conforming more and more to West German thinking as the two countries move toward unity. There are already indications that Bonn is directly influencing East Berlin's foreign policy.

The fast-moving developments in Eastern Europe are being watched with considerable anxiety by Arab diplomats, analysts and policymakers, who are having to discard long-proven strategies and face new challenges. Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak has already established a commission to study the effect of the changes in Eastern Europe on the Arab world. The Arab League is conducting similar research.

Neumann, a former East German ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) who has spent most of his diplomatic career in the Middle East, believes that the lessening of the cold war and reforms in the Soviet Union are responsible for recent trends in the Arab world: the new moderation of traditionally militant Arab states, such as Syria and Libya, and the PLO's two-year-old peace initiative, which is based on a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Furthermore, the gradual Soviet retreat from its cold war stance in the Middle East has enabled Egypt, isolated for a decade because of its peace treaty with Israel, to resume a leading role in the Arab world. "The winners of the present situation are those who are able to find a way through dialogue to an understanding," said Neumann, clearly referring to Egypt's policy. "The losers will be those who will not be able to accept realities."

But even Arab countries that enjoy Western support, such as Egypt and Iraq, are worried about the effects of the changing face of Eastern Europe. Moustapha Hannafi, Egypt's ambassador to

East Berlin, predicts that Eastern Europe, with its lucrative new markets, cheap labour and attractive investment opportunities, is likely to divert Western aid and private investment from the Arab world. Egypt is one of several countries which are using Western loans to pay interest on previously incurred debt.

Arab diplomats in East Berlin are also concerned that as Western attention focuses on Eastern Europe, the Middle East will simply be shunted to the sidelines of the international agenda, just as the intifada — the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank — has been pushed out of Western newspapers by Eastern European developments.

But by far the greatest Arab concern is the exodus of tens of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel. However, reasonable intentions of the Soviet government in relaxing its emigration restrictions of Soviet Jews, Arab diplomats see the policy as a sad symbol of Moscow's waning influence and shifting priorities in the Middle East.

The settlement of Soviet Jews in the territories is a particularly bitter blow precisely because it comes just as the cold war is winding down and an Arab consensus on peace talks is growing. One Arab diplomat in East Berlin angrily suggested that the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories was a deliberate Israeli move to prevent East-West co-operation from producing a peace settlement such as that brokered by the United Nations in Namibia.

"We are not the Arabs of the 19th century," he warned, "we are important economic and political partners. The interests of Europe are at stake in the Middle East."

Western Europe has long recognized that its interests are inextricably tied up with those of the Arab world. Arab diplomats hope that the new Eastern European governments will come to the same conclusion in spite of new pressures and priorities.

Arab diplomats in Berlin say that oil will become the key to new relationships between Eastern Europe and the Arab world as Soviet influence and now-discredited communist economic policies become history. Until now, the Soviet Union has been the main source of oil for Eastern Europe.

Art Buchwald

Concerned with making kids only

SOME people who believe that everyone should have babies tend to throw out the bathwater as soon as the baby is born.

"It's a boy! What a wonderful thing, a beautiful baby boy."

"Who takes care of him?"

"Don't worry. He belongs to all of us."

"The baby is 1-year-old. He needs some milk."

"That's not my department. I was only concerned with making sure he was born."

"The boy is 6 years old. He's awfully thin and not getting much nourishment. Would you send someone over with food?"

"How did you get this number? Let me tell you something, I don't have any use for welfare cheats. If he's able-bodied, he can go out and get a job in McDonald's."

Backward

"He's 9 now and he seems slightly backward in school. The doctor said it was lack of a balanced diet after he was born. Do you have any idea how that happened?"

"There is just so much I can do. Once a baby has his own latrine, it's everybody for himself."

"In calling tell you that there was an altercation at school. The child you sponsored picked up a knife and tried to stab his teacher. He needs some immediate psychiatric treatment before he goes off the deep end forever."

"I can't afford psychiatric treatment. The trouble with kids today is that they are oddities by society. Give him a taste of a hard knocks' school and he'll straighten out."

"The boy has just turned 16 and he's joined a gang. The police believe he is into dope. If you give us \$2,000, we can get him out of the neighbourhood."

"That's ridiculous. Why should I bail out this child?"

"We assumed that since you campaigned so hard for his birth, you might help him in his teen-age years."

Problem

"You had no right to think any such thing. He was a problem kid to start with. I saw it on his face in the hospital."

"He's 20 now. You probably read about him in the newspapers. The doctor who interviewed him said that he didn't have a chance. From the day he was born the boy felt that no one cared about him, and all he was trying to do was get even."

"You're not going to blame me for what that boy did. I haven't seen him since he was in the nursery."

"You fought so hard for him to see the light of day."

"I fight to bring a lot of children into the world — I couldn't take care of all of them even if I wanted to. That's the government's job."

"He got 15 years in prison. He still has no idea why

IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN
TO GORBACHEV...

HIS SUCCESSOR...



IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN
TO BUSH...

HIS SUCCESSOR...



AND YOU THOUGHT THE RUSSIANS HAD A PROBLEM!

he did it." "What am I supposed to do?"

"Not too much. But it would be nice if you had a plan for a few of these children."

"I think you've got the wrong number. I'm with

the 'Right to Life' not 'Right to Live.'"
Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Letters to the editor

Securities industry

SIR: The \$600 million fine paid by Mike Milken was given a wide coverage in your newspaper. The corruption, greed, excess and avarice of the wealthy are followed with great interest. Mike Milken's guilty plea was a damning of rampant criminal conduct permeating the securities industry.

The troubling question now being raised is, why the system allows mechanisms by which the wealthy elite engineer feats of criminal proportions? Is this the failure of a system where now it is proven that it is difficult and impossible to conduct strictly honest business? Why is it so that honesty is incompatible with amassing of a large fortune? The admission of guilt by Mike Milken, the man who single-handedly created the \$300 billion junk-bond market for Drexel Burnham Lambert, ironically, points towards a tendency that all big business is conducted by the strong and it usually operates against the weak.

The plea bargain agreement with the prosecutors raises several questions. The charges to which Mike Milken pleaded guilty were not minor or technical. He was charged eighteen months ago on 96 counts of securities frauds and insider trading. One of the counts included stealing from clients of other firms for the

benefit of his own account. Another, a series of fake deals to enable a client to waive income taxes. He violated the rules governing leverage buyouts and takeovers of the companies.

The plea bargain also raises the question of whether the offensive on Wall Street fraud has been stamped out? Even the prosecutors are shy to answer this question. The offensive on Wall Street fraud continues; as defence lawyers put it, "still there are a lot of nervous people around. The sleaking point is, will Mike Milken help the Securities and Exchange Commission

nab other white-collar Wall Street criminals? The problem is that a chain of prosecutions that began four years ago against Dennis Levine of Drexel, Mike Milken, Ivan Boesky and Drexel itself, the three individuals and the firm, pleaded guilty rather than go on a trial. A trial could have revealed how much of Milken's power derives from genius and how much from deception, fraud and deceit.

What nailed Milken was a document prepared by Boesky's accountant which was the killer document, "a smoking gun," which was a score-card tallying what Drexel owed Boesky and Boesky owed Drexel in the secret arrangement by which they traded securities. Milken says that what started as an arm's length and correct transaction evolved into reciprocal accom-

modations, some of which violated the law. His six felony charges, with the exception of two, are mostly concerned with his secret accommodations with Ivan Boesky and shows how he bent the rules at his pleasure and at others' expense, but he remains open to civil suits by investors.

Mike Milken has got off easily. He would still be a billionaire but for the expected restructuring of the companies and sacrificing of their independence due to huge high-interest debt — predictably one of the most alarming phenomena.

The international investors with billions of dollars at stake watch anxiously as the federal prisons split over with the likes of Leona Helmsley to take care of housekeeping and Michael Milken to run rackets.

Iqbal Latif,
Kuwait.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Summit

Baker mission proves triumph

WASHINGTON, (Reuters) US Secretary of State James Baker's successful mission to the Soviet Union has gone a long way towards ensuring a triumphal summit at the end of the month for President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Baker and Gorbachev between them have taken the sting out of the two issues that could have soured the summit — arms control and the crisis over the Baltic republics.

"We're looking at a lot of nice photo ops (opportunities) for Bush and Gorbachev but not a lot of substance," said one official on Baker's plane.

Baker, who has enjoyed a friendly rivalry with his friend and political ally Bush for decades, managed to steal his thunder by achieving a major breakthrough on Start — the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

Committed

Bush and Gorbachev committed themselves to the quest for a Start agreement when they met in Malta last December. They will now probably be able to announce agreement on all major points in Washington.

There are still some lesser points outstanding but they are highly technical.

"The presidents might get into some negotiations but they issues are so technical they will really have to be worked by experts," said the official.

Apart from Start, Bush and Gorbachev will also sign a chemical warfare agreement which will half production of poison gases immediately and commit both superpowers to a timetable for the destruction of 80 per cent of their stocks.

Adding to the gloss, the two presidents will sign a long series of lesser agreements, ranging from nuclear testing to joint oceanic research and the establishment of a joint cultural centre.

A disarmament agreement that will lead to significant cuts in superpower arsenals of long-range nuclear missiles, Start had been delayed for months by differences over cruise missiles.

Compromise

The compromise that emerged involved painful concessions by both sides. The United States accepted the Soviet position on the range of the missiles to be included. Moscow gave up its cherished wish for a verifiable agreement on sea-launched cruise missiles.

"What you have in this case is a lot of give and take. In a number of cases, we split the difference," said a senior State Department official.

The one issue that still has the potential to ruffle the Washington meeting is the Baltic crisis.

Gorbachev took much of the heat out of the situation by agreeing to meet Kazimiera Prunskiene, prime minister of the rebel Republic of Lithuania.

The fact that the meeting took place while Baker was in Moscow was not lost on members of the US delegation.

"Baker took it as an encouraging sign and the possible opening of the dialogue Washington has been urging on both sides since Lithuania declared independence on March 11."

Basis

"I can't say at this point that the Soviets and Lithuanians have yet arrived at a common basis on which to proceed," Baker said. "I think they are now more actively seeking to develop that basis but they are not there yet."

His statement was taken to mean that while Bush would continue to support the national aspirations of the three Baltic republics, he would not allow the issue to spoil the summit atmosphere.

A summit of sunshine and smiles suits both leaders well.

Gorbachev will be able to do what he does best — pose as an international statesman on a world stage and demonstrate to his people that his foreign policy is producing arms control agreements that make the world a safer place and enhance Soviet security.

Bush will enjoy many of the same benefits of enhancing his already booming popularity.

US diplomatic analysts believe Gorbachev badly needs the positive exposure. Officials who took part in Baker's meeting with the Soviet leader thought they saw signs of the enormous pressure on him.

"He hides it well, but you can feel the pressure," one said.

QUOTE ME

"The traditional Japanese taste has been for Renoir, Monet and other impressionists but now they also are buying top-quality 20th century pictures. So although the upward curve of the art market has flattened to some extent, I don't think this is a downward curve thanks to the Japanese." — President of Christie's auction house.

"I heard the opinion that measures against us might be even tougher. If we did not behave intelligently, 'The suspension of the blockade is evidently connected to what extent we adopt proposals offered to us.' — Lithuanian premier.

"There is a lot of recognition in this country that perhaps these deaths could have been avoided if the government had acted on time to put in effect a (peace) policy." — a Colombian opposition leader slamming the government.

"It's a great painting. It's by a rare artist. It's in fine condition. There are practically no paintings like it in private hands." — an art dealer on the painting "Portrait of Dr Gachev" by Van Gogh which sold for \$82.5 million.

"We don't have any key players that we can't do without. Swedish soccer has developed over the last few years and we have several high-quality players for each spot in the team today. We have an all-over strong team. But obviously we will have to improve the self-confidence of the Malmö players." — Swedish soccer official on the World Cup.

"It is in our interest that the policy of President Gorbachev be successful at home and abroad. We are aware of the many-sided problems facing the Soviet leadership now which require from us a large measure of responsibility. This responsible policy, which has replaced the power policy of the past, demands from us avoidance of seeking unilateral advantages." — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

"Today I was very emotional when I realized ... I was on the pole. In the back of my mind, 25 years ... that I've been driving cars, it took me that long to get the pole at Indianapolis. It's great. For sure one of the most emotional moments I've had." — Emerson Fittipaldi after waiting six days to see whether he would be knocked off the pole position for the Indianapolis 500 Auto Race.

Benazir faces tough task of revitalising Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, May 20. (Reuters): Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's first freely elected prime minister in 11 years, faces a tough task in trying to breathe new life into the economy.

Civil strife in major cities, inadequate infrastructure and rapid population growth are deterring foreign investment and eating up economic gains.

Benazir's 18-month-old government wants to cut the budget deficit, privatise state enterprises and encourage the private sector to expand its role.

"The government is trying to create the basis for long-term growth," said a Western diplomat who monitors the economy. "But it's not yet clear how successful the government policies can be in the face of considerable

problems."

With poverty and unemployment contributing to social tensions, a lacklustre economic performance could worsen the violence and undermine support for Benazir.

The government has streamlined procedures for investors and offers them tax incentives. It forecasts that private investment, which was slightly below public sector investments in the year to last June, will soon exceed it to become the main engine for economic growth.

"We want to shift much of the burden of new investment to the private sector," said Vaseem Aoun Jafarey, Benazir's chief economic advisor. "We see private investors in many new areas

such as power projects, banking, airlines and communication."

Jafarey said the government would eventually sell shares in enterprises ranging from textile mills to banks. On May 21, 10 per cent of the ordinary share capital of state-owned Pakistan International Airlines will be offered to Pakistani citizens.

Foreign investment is sought in a wide range of industries.

"The inhibition about permitting foreign investors to have majority shareholdings is gone. Now we see no problem with a 100 per cent foreign holding," Jafarey said.

Overall figures for foreign investment were not available but government officials said their efforts to

attract it were beginning to bear fruit.

"The government has done a lot to win foreign investors and many companies are expressing interest," said the foreign diplomat, though he added that bureaucratic red tape, inefficient and corruption were still deterrents.

Under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government is cutting the budget deficit, though high military spending because of tensions with India over the disputed territory of Kashmir could hamper efforts to control state finances.

Jafarey said that once the deficit had been sufficiently cut in two or three years, Pakistan could embark on sustained economic growth of six or seven

percent a year.

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, which was 4.8 per cent in the year to June 1989, was officially forecast at 5.2 per cent in the current fiscal year and 5.5 per cent in the next.

Pakistani businessmen are heartened by the government's emphasis on the private sector but say violence between ethnic and political groups and violent crime, especially in the southern province of Sindh, are scaring off many investors.

Gun battles between ethnic groups are common in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and capital of Sindh province, where hundreds of people have been killed in recent years. Troops are often called out to restore peace.

"The law-and-order situation is a serious problem," said Akbar Hashwani, a leading Karachi cotton exporter. "Nobody dares to put money into Sindh anymore."

Inadequate telecommunications and electricity supplies are also hampering businessmen. One recent study estimated annual losses because of power cuts at \$500 million.

Also hanging over the economy is rapid growth in the population, now 110 million, of 3.1 per cent a year.

The government runs family planning programmes but it is wary of offending Muslim scholars who oppose the schemes as anti-Islamic and who wield considerable influence among the illiterate majority.

Bommai elected Janata leader

By Thomas Abraham

Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 20. Former Karnataka chief minister S R Bommai has been elected unopposed as the interim president of the Janata Dal, the main constituent of India's ruling National Front.

The two other candidates in the fray — party General Secretary Jaipal Reddy and Lok Sabha member Hukum Dev Narayan Yadav — withdrew from the contest in the last 36 hours before elections were due to be held today.

Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate, who was appointed returning officer for the election, declared Bommai was unanimously elected and said state units had been told there was no need to go ahead with today's polling process.

The election was necessitated by the resignation of Prime Minister V P Singh from the position to uphold the principle of one-man, one-post. Bommai will hold office only for a few months until a regular president is elected in the organisational elections planned for later this year by the party. The Janata Dal has already launched a membership drive in preparation for the exercise. Yadav had maintained all along that he would not retire from the contest but an announcement that he had withdrawn was made yesterday by veteran Dal leader Chandra Shekhar in a statement, with the candidate later confirming its contents.

But it was Reddy who was considered Bommai's main rival. He was also averse to withdrawing his candidature but bowed out suddenly Friday night, paving the way for the Karnataka leader's unanimous choice.

While the party had wanted to go through the electoral process to establish its democratic credentials and demonstrate it was different from the Congress Party, the contest for the interim presidency threatened to divide the party sharply. Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal threw his weight openly behind Bommai. Singh himself never indicated who his choice would be but it was widely perceived that he would prefer Reddy. Nobody rated Yadav's chances very highly.

For the last many days, top Janata Dal leaders had been working furiously behind the scenes to reach a consensus on the choice of interim president and avoid a contest. They included Biju Patnaik, R K Hegde, Aji Singh, George Fernandes and Sharad Yadav. Their argument was that while an election through an ad hoc electoral college and its advantages, it might not be wise to go through such an exercise "under the given circumstances." One version has it that Reddy had no choice but to withdraw from the contest because all his main supporters had gone over to the Devi Lal side.

Originally, the election was slated for May 1 but had to be postponed till today to enable a consensus to be reached, though "practical difficulties" were given out as the excuse then. The 66-year-old Bommai had presided over the Janata Dal's foundation conference in Bangalore in October, 1988. But he has never been considered a part of the Dal's top leadership. Born in a farmer's family in Dhawad, Karnataka, Bommai participated in the freedom struggle and practised as a lawyer before coming under the influence of the late M N Roy, the radical nationalist.

He is known to be an affable and unassuming person with the staying powers of a long-distance runner.

Tamil rebels getting restless

COLOMBO, May 20. (Kuna): The Joint Operations Command (JOC) of Sri Lanka today said a series of incidents had taken place in the northern and eastern provinces of the island involving the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the most powerful of some half a dozen Tamil militant groups based in the north-east.

In a report to the government, the command also said the LTTE was indulging increasingly in acts of confrontation, an official of the JOC said.

The report refers to a major incident that took place at the Buddhist temple in the northern island of Nagadeepa.

In the incident 12 armed LTTE cadres had tried to enter the temple led by James, the LTTE area commander who presently attends discussions with the Sri Lankan government. However, Sri Lankan navy officials had advised the LTTE cadres to enter the temple without weapons.

Empty grave is kept ready to receive next victim

Sharpened Benazir's image, silenced an opposition

Kashmir a political issue

SRINAGAR, India, May 20. (AP): An empty grave is kept ready at the new 'martyrs cemetery' to receive the next victim of Kashmir's revolt against India's rule.

On the topmost branch of an ancient einar tree a few metres (yards) away, the bright green flag of Islam flutters briskly in a light breeze that somehow fails to stir the drooping banner of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front.

But the spirit of the insurrection is far from sagging — despite the presence of Indian soldiers on every major street, despite the hospital wards full of people with bullet and beating injuries they say were inflicted by these 'alien' soldiers, despite the government's intensifying counterinsurgency campaign, which has driven the leaders of the freedom movement deeper and deeper underground in the tangle of narrow alleyways.

No one doubts there will be more 'shaheed', or martyrs, for the cemetery under the einar tree. Or for the scores of other new burial grounds in the Kashmir valley beneath the snow-capped Himalayas.

Nearly 400 people, mostly Muslim militants or their supporters, have died since Jan 20 that's when the government embarked on its latest and harshest crackdown against the Kashmir rebellion, which has simmered, sputtered and flared over the past 43 years.

Last winter, it erupted again, this time into an escalating spiral of assassinations, bombings and kidnappings.

The Kashmir crisis is a legacy of 1947 when Britain bowed out of the Indian subcontinent, one of the vastest and unruliest expanses of its once-mighty colonial empire.

The Hindus and Muslims of British India, unable to reconcile their rivalries under the banner of a single independent country, were partitioned into secular India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Both new nations claimed Kashmir, a predominantly Muslim region whose Hindu Maharajah hemmed and hawed until Pakistani tribesmen invaded his western domains and he hastily cast his lot with India.

Pakistan and India bisected Kashmir. Three were failed to settle the sovereignty issue, and it now threatens to drag them into battle for a fourth time.

A 1948 resolution by the UN Security Council called for India to conduct a plebiscite 'as soon as possible' in Jammu-Kashmir so people could decide whether to join India or Pakistan.

India never ordered such a plebiscite, blaming Pakistan for failing to comply with other sections of the resolution that called for all Pakistani citizens to leave Jammu-Kashmir and for Pakistan to prevent arms from reaching the region.

The cry for freedom is heard today throughout Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir, the only Indian state with a Muslim majority.

It is whispered in English by shoppers who pass foreigners bicycling past Indian guns in the heart of the old city. It is spoken with defiance and resolution by businessmen, doctors and civil servants in homes and offices.

It is chanted by toddlers, prompted by their elders to call for 'azadi', or freedom, in the Urdu and Kashmiri languages. It is shouted from the mouths and guns of young men, rasped by old men and women nearing the end of their time on earth.

It is categorically rejected by the government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh in New Delhi and its appointed governor of Jammu-Kashmir, a tough-minded Hindu who uses the lone name of Jagmohan and sits in the magnificent isolation of an old princely residence overlooking Srinagar's Dal Lake.

"Our only demand is freedom. We want our Kashmir," said Hilal Ahmad Beg, leader of the Students Liberation Front.

The group kidnapped a Muslim university vice-chancellor and a Hindu industrialist six weeks ago and killed them when Jagmohan refused to release three jailed militants.

The governor ordered 15 straight days of around-the-clock curfew and house-to-house searches that he said resulted in the arrest of 836 people, ranging from hard-core terrorists to 'bad character' people who had taken advantage of the unrest to commit non-political crimes. All but 249 of the prisoners have been released, Jagmohan said.

The dragnet failed to snare Beg, who contends the authorities do not have his photograph, enabling him to walk unchallenged past Indian troops. Indeed, he strolled openly — although watchfully — down a street and into a building to meet a reporter for an interview arranged through intermediaries.

Only three days earlier, Beg said, he had led a midday attack that killed a paramilitary soldier in the centre of Srinagar.

The newly dressed 26-year-old leader of the Students Liberation Front readily acknowledged he has been too busy with militant activities for the past eight years to ever enroll anywhere as a student. He said that on at least three occasions he had gone to Pakistani Kashmir for military training lasting up to 3 1/2 months at a time.

Beg's group is a wing of the oldest of the secessionist groups, the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, whose leader, Amanullah Khan, is based in the Pakistan-controlled part of Kashmir.

Beg and other militants said the independent Kashmir they envision should include the predominantly Hindu Jammu region plus all of Indian- and Pakistani-controlled Kashmir.

Their proposed nation, whose only serious economic base is a multimillion dollar tourist business that evaporated during the violence, would be a landlocked enclave bordering Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and India.

It was frustration over the single-source economy that helped fuel the revolt. Throughout Srinagar, multilingual Muslims with bachelor's and master's degrees work as office clerks and shopkeepers and accuse Indian officials of reserving a disproportionate share of state government posts for Hindus.

It is resented of the government crackdown that helps keep the fire of independence burning. Any conversation with a gathering of a half-dozen or more people seems to produce at least one man or woman who angrily displays gashes, bruises or bone fractures bealing in plaster casts. They always say their injuries were inflicted by Indian soldiers or paramilitary forces.

Hospital rooms turn into miniature political rallies as relatives, and even strangers visiting patients in other wards, crowd around the latest admissions.

Mohammad Ashraf Khan, 25, hops on his one remaining foot as he manoeuvres on crutches to the bedside of his mother, Janna, who had recently been admitted with two bullet wounds in her right shoulder. She said she was wounded by paramilitary troops who opened fire after they were attacked by militants.

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, May 20. (AP): A violent secessionist movement in India's troubled Jammu-Kashmir state has become a political Jekyll-and-Hyde for Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

It has sharpened her image at home and silenced a hostile opposition. But it threatens to backfire in Monday's assembly election in Pakistan-controlled Azad (free) Kashmir.

If her left-of-centre party wins, analysts say, Benazir will have to either arm Kashmiris streaming across the porous border demanding military help or fend off protests by a hostile opposition.

Either Benazir's Pakistan People's Party will have to agree to a limited war to pacify Kashmiris or have no control over Kashmir," said Abdul Shaheen, a bureaucrat in the Azad Kashmir government.

Her party's major opponent is the ruling All Azad Kashmir Muslim Conference a right-wing religious party that now controls the 48-seat state assembly.

Militant secessionists in Indian-held Kashmir have been waving the Islamic banner and Pakistan's Muslim fundamentalists have been pushing for direct involvement of Pakistan, something Benazir has rejected.

Her weeklong 'peace' junket of eight member countries of the organisation of Islamic Conference is seen as a well-timed image booster.

Without getting directly involved in the Azad Kashmir elections, Benazir's tour of Iran, Syria, Turkey, Jordan, North Yemen, Tunisia, Egypt and Libya has given her party a rich Islamic flavour. Some analysts say it may have clinched the elections for her party.

Two weeks ago, political observers in this tranquil city of 300,000 in the majestic Himalayas wouldn't have given Benazir's party odds of winning. But now, one analyst said, "they're definitely in the running."

Benazir's party has no seats in the assembly because it refused to contest the 1985 elections as a protest against Pakistan's military dictator, President Gen Mohammad Zia ul Haq.

Abdul Qayyum, Azad Kashmir president and Muslim conference leader, was a close ally of Zia, who died in a mysterious plane crash in August 1988 and paved the way for a democratic election that installed Benazir as the first woman leader of a modern Muslim nation.

Abroad, Benazir who seen as the heroine who restored democracy to her developing nation. But at home she was considered a weak leader, paralysed by compromise, incompetence and corruption.

That perception started to change in January after India launched a military crackdown on Muslim militants demanding independence.

More than 300 people have died in the bloody uprising. Jammu-Kashmir is India's only predominantly Muslim state. Most of India's 880 million people are Hindus.

Political opponents criticised Benazir's government for what they called weak attempts to generate international condemnation of India over Kashmir.

Encouraging them to write to newspapers. He said he had already met new Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, appointed last month after King Birendra bowed to a campaign for multi-party democracy and legalised political parties.

He had yet to meet leaders of Bhattarai's liberal Nepali Congress Party and the seven communist factions allied with it in the campaign for democracy.

Benazir, who joined a New York firm this year after retiring from Rutgers University in New Jersey, said he had plenty of ideas on what the new



An activist waves his Kalashnikov assault rifle at a campaign rally of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party on Saturday at Pakistani Kashmir state capital Muzaffarabad. (Reuters wirephoto)

But with biting rhetoric and impassioned pleas, Benazir called for an end to India's brutal repression of Pakistan's Muslim brethren. She emerged as a sear-rattling leader unafraid of taking on India.

The two neighbours went to war in 1948 and again in 1965 over Kashmir. They fought a third war in 1971 over East Pakistan, or what became Bangladesh. Pakistan lost all three forays.

Pakistan-controlled Kashmir is part of the larger former princely state of Kashmir, divided between the two countries after the 1947 partition and the end of British rule in the subcontinent.

As the violence escalated this year, New Delhi and Islamabad launched a war of words that heightened fears of a fourth conflict.

New Delhi accused Pakistan of arming, training and harbouring the militants in mountain guerrilla camps. Pakistan denied the allegations but said it supported the Kashmiris right to self-determination.

Although the bitter rhetoric has subsided in recent weeks, gunbattles occasionally erupt along the UN monitored cease-

fire line where Indian and Pakistani soldiers face each other.

The flareups prompted US President George Bush decided to dispatch a team of experts to India and Pakistan this week to assess escalating tension.

"There is concern," said one Western diplomat in Islamabad, insisting on anonymity. "The politicians on both sides are making a lot of people anxious. But the military leaders are talking. They seem to be more realistic than the politicians."

Azad Kashmir has maintained a special status in Pakistan, having a separate constitution, a president and a prime minister. The central government's jurisdiction is limited to foreign policy, defence and currency.

Tomorrow's election will be the third poll in the state's 43-year history.

Justice Ashraf Khan, chief election commissioner, said there are 235 candidates vying for 40 assembly seats. None are women, although there are no restrictions on female candidates. Most are running as independents.

The remaining eight seats will be filled by the new assembly and divided among women, refugees and expatriates.

A low-key campaign, punctuated by an occasional brawl, has been conducted by roughly two camps — the religious conservative and the left-leaning liberals.

The incumbent All Azad Kashmir Muslim Conference is joined by Jamiat-Ulema-Islam, or society of Islamic scholars, and Jamiat-Ulema Jammu-Kashmir parties.

One observer said the two Jamiat parties are small. "But if they can play with the sentiments of the people they can cause hell. It's very easy to instigate Muslims in the cause of a so-called jihad (holy war)," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The PPP sides with the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation League, despite its secessionist policy.

Benazir's moral support of Muslim 'freedom fighters' in Kashmir has taken the wind out of the sails of an often hostile opposition, which was bound together by anti-Benazir sentiment.

The opposition alliance, known by its Urdu-language initials UJ, has been forced to join her on the Kashmir issue. The alliance is a loose collection of right-wing, religious and centrist parties.

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Sher Ali Shah

Child with freak hair promoted as a saint

CHITTAGONG, May 20. (AP): A five-year-old boy is being promoted as a saint in eastern Bangladesh because of his four-inch-long (10-centimetre-long) beard and hair down to his shoulders.

M.R. Khan, a local paediatrician, says the boy probably suffers from a hormonal imbalance. But it is difficult to pinpoint the reason for the unusual growth of hair because the child's family has not taken him to a doctor.

Sher Ali, the son of a wandering seller of pots and pans, is a healthy child, except for the hair growth.

"I want to play. Let's go for a ride," he said, pointing to a motorcycle parked outside his two-room bamboo-and-straw home in a Chittagong slum.

But his father, Abdul Kader Bhandari, says his son is a saint. "Ali is no more an ordinary child," Bhandari says. "He has God-gifted powers and can perform miracles."

No one has seen any miracles. But the claim attracts attention in Bangladesh, where less than 10 per cent of the 110 million population completes primary school.

Bhandari says people flock to see his son at mosques and other religious places and offer money. He says the money amounts to about 1,000 taka (\$30) a day, or about ten times the amount Bhandari earned selling pots and pans.

30 killed in violence

KARACHI, Pakistan, May 20. (Reuters): Gunmen killed a young man today and several houses and shops were looted and set ablaze in the Pakistani city of Hyderabad, where the death toll from a week of ethnic violence has reached 30.

Doctors also said the bodies of two people shot yesterday were found, raising the toll for that day to 10.

Troops patrolled sensitive areas of the curfew-bound city after police failed to halt the violence which erupted between Mohajir immigrants and native Sindhis last Monday.

Boat capsized

NEW DELHI, May 20. (Reuters): At least 25 members of a wedding party drowned when their boat capsized and sank in the Krishna river in southern India, the Press Trust of India reported today. The accident happened as the boat was crossing the river near the town of Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh state on Saturday.

US law expert advising fledgling democracies in drafting their constitutions

KATHMANDU, May 20. (Reuters): American lawyer Albert Blaustein travels the world helping fledgling democracies to draft their constitutions.

"My motivation comes from within, the need to ensure human rights," said the 68-year-old legal expert, in Nepal where he plans to advise on a new constitution to reduce the absolute powers of the monarchy.

Funded and encouraged by private US support groups comprising Nepalese expatriates and American sympathisers, Blaustein thinks ordinary people should have a say in how their constitution is

framed. "The constitution is too important a document to be just left in the hands of lawyers to draw up," he told Reuters.

Blaustein arrived in Kathmandu earlier this month — fresh from advising new governments in Romania and Poland on how to frame democratic constitutions after four decades of communism — and got straight to work.

The former law professor said he would advise Nepal's new government to seek the views of ordinary people, by setting up special letter boxes and

encouraging them to write to newspapers.

He said he had already met new Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, appointed last month after King Birendra bowed to a campaign for multi-party democracy and legalised political parties.

He had yet to meet leaders of Bhattarai's liberal Nepali Congress Party and the seven communist factions allied with it in the campaign for democracy.

Blaustein, who joined a New York firm this year after retiring from Rutgers University in New Jersey, said he had plenty of ideas on what the new

constitution should contain.

"Nepal's present constitution invests tremendous powers in a monarch that are not consistent with a constitutional monarchy," he said.

"The clause in the constitution saying the sovereignty of Nepal is vested in his majesty is contrary to 200 years or more of constitutionalism in which it is understood that sovereignty is invested in the people and not the crown."

He said the main concern of a constitution was not only to protect human rights but to create machinery to enforce them.

EVENTS



Young Discoverers' Club holds spring party

Calhays Pacific's Young Discoverers' Club members at a recent spring party in Bahrain. Fifty children took part in a number of outdoor games including an egg hunt, and were guests at a complimentary tea party given by the Holiday Inn Hotel. At left is the club's co-ordinator, Charlotte Norris with Alan Harrison, manager

Bahrain (far right). Total number of YDC members in Bahrain is 80. Picture shows (left) the club's co-ordinator, Charlotte Norris with Alan Harrison, manager Bahrain (far right).



Budding artists at Ghadir

Eighteen paintings went on show recently at the Ghadir Gallery of both Lebanese artists Man Harb and Monia Bassil.

Monia's artistic touches on paintings using gouache (opaque water colours prepared with gum) revealed her optimism. The simplicity in her paintings cleverly allures the viewer to concentrate on the light blue and yellow colours that suggest peace and love of nature.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Gallery Dahiyat

Abdullah Al Salem
THE Sixth Arab Children's art show will be held at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery, near Fatima Mosque, from May 12 to 21. The paintings and drawings of children from several Arab and Gulf countries will be on show. It will be open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm, except weekends.

SOCIAL

Waltzes, Polkas and the works of Strauss

KUWAIT Cine Club presents a musical evening, Monday 21st May and Tuesday 22nd May, featuring the works of Johann Strauss. The programme will include famous waltzes such as "The Blue Danube", the Emperor's Waltz with Vicoopa Opera Ballet besides "Voices of Spring Waltz" by soprano Cathleen Batle.

In addition to some famous polkas like "Pizzicato - Polka", "Thunder and Lightning Polka".

The programme will end with the "Radetzky March" of the Vienna Philharmonic orchestra conducted by Herbert von Karajan. Soprano Cathleen Batle.

The programme will be presented by Abdel Rahman Nassar.

British Council

Story Time at the British Council: Thursday, 24 May at 10:30 am.

Enjoy the magic of books with a professional story teller. This will be Merry's last presentation. Her young friends (ages 3-7) are all cordially invited. Please book seats by phoning: 2515512; 2533204/3227.

YOGA LESSONS

FOR fitness and slimming Kuwait International Hotel offers yoga lessons for ladies and men every Sunday and Tuesday from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 11.00 pm to 12 noon. For more information contact Kuwait International's Recreation Department at 2530000 ext 8050 or Tanya at 5626529.

Pakistan Art Circle (Veterans) membership campaign

THE Pakistan Arts Circle (Veterans) Executive Committee has decided to launch a membership campaign to broaden the popular base of the PAC.

All Pakistanis are invited to join the PAC by completing the membership form. After completion of the membership drive, elections will be held for the PAC executive committee in due course of time.

For further details contact: Abdul Sattar Qureshi (5716388), A.S. Ghazali (5631815), Nasrullah Khan (483578) and Zahid Butt (2414570).

Indian Arts Circle

HERE'S good news for lovers of one-act plays. A wide variety of one-act plays to reach as wide an audience as possible is going to be staged from 17th to 31st May 1990 at the IAC auditorium for the 2nd IAC One Act Play Competition. After the roaring success of the 1st One Act Play Competition, 16 teams are planning to perform plays in languages ranging from Malayalam to Marathi. The inaugural offering is Konkani play at 8 pm on the 17th May. Watch out for further information in this column.

Summer Affair '90

"Summer Affair '90" which had been postponed, will now be held on Thursday, May 24, 1990, at the Regency Palace Hotel. Highlights will be the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen and Miss Kodak. Passes held by guests are still valid. For fresh reservations please contact Julio 4315425, Hilary 5741380 and Mercedes 4890566.

Boushahri Gallery

AN exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists will be held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salimiyah Bldg, Salem Al Mubarak St. from May 7. The month-long exhibition is being held under the patronage of Dr Hassan Ali Ibrahim. Some of the artists who will exhibit their works include Jaafar Isah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jame'ei. It will be open to the public for a month. Timings: 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm.

"Summer Belle '90"

WAKE up pretty damsels, "Summer Belle" awaits you at the SAS Tent. Plan your evening with fun and fiesta right now with the United Goans Centre. Surprises await one and all. It's happening on August 2, 1990. Rock and roll to the scintillating music of the top bands in Kuwait. Look out for further details.

Kalpak celebrates 1st anniversary

Kerala Arts & Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait celebrates its 1st anniversary at Indian embassy auditorium on Friday, May 25, 1990 at 5.00 pm.

A variety show will be held following the function to mark the anniversary celebrations.

Kuwait Welsh Society

THE annual general meeting and social evening will be held at 8 pm on May 23, 1990. For details of venue etc., please ring 3912384, 3713467 or 5740256. Newcomers welcome.

Kuwait players

KUWAIT Players presents A Room Full of Foreigners from May 28 to May 31 at the U.A.S. - Salwa - at 8.00 pm. For reservations phone 5321294 or 5615357.

Tamil drama

IAC presents a hilarious Tamil comedy by "Enthusiasts" after their last year's roaring success of *Unnaiye Umm Vilai Enna*. Programme is at IAC hall on May 25, 1990 at 7.00 pm.

For entry passes contact 3904817, 5616930, 48894874 and 3903879.

Asparagus promotion at Kuwait Sheraton

THE Riccardo Restaurant with its famous Italian cuisine presents an asparagus promotion from 20.5.90 till 26.5.90 with entertainment from Franco and Regina.

SPORTS

Windsurfing

ALL are welcome to the Messilah Beach Hotel open windsurfing event on Friday, May 25, 1990.

Prizes for experienced, novice and lady windsurfers. Entry fee is KD3. Maximum

sail size 1D 7.5 square metres. For further information please call 5624111 ext. 739.

HOTELS

Meridien Hotel

INDONESIAN CORNER: Enjoy Indonesian cuisine every Wednesday night at La Brasserie. In addition to our daily lavish buffet our chef will prepare Indonesian specialties in front of you.

JAZZ NIGHT: Enjoy New Orleans atmosphere with jazz and seafood specialties every Thursday in La Brasserie restaurant.

Enjoy a typical Oriental buffet lunch with Oriental organist every Friday in La Brasserie restaurant. Friday: Family day in La Brasserie.

VERSAILLES: Take advantage of our great value business lunch including starter, main course, dessert and coffee.

For dinner enjoy relaxing atmosphere provided by our resident artiste and finest cuisine with a la carte menu featuring chef specialties as fish or beef "fondue", grilled beef on "brasserie", ham-mour and salmon on "shingle" and many others.

Kuwait Sheraton

RICCARDO Restaurant: The Riccardo restaurant with its famous Italian cuisine will be open for lunch and live entertainment with "Franco and Regina" every night.

Holiday Inn

AL ANDALUS Supper Club: For elegance and style, take time out for a quiet fine dining "Arabic Style" every Thursday night. For something truly different, take a choice from our exquisite Oriental and International cuisine. Our resident Arabic band provide wonderful music.

FRIDAY FAMILY LUNCH: Entertainment at its best. Wonderful Disney fantasy for your kids. Prizes & surprises. Share this exciting day to make your Friday perfect.

Kuwait International

FAILAKA: Offers succulent American steaks, grilled or broiled of unlimited weight for lunch or dinner. You can choose your favourite cut from the trolley cooked to your liking. Live entertainment in the evenings. Closed on Fridays.

LA PALMA: Offers an elaborate buffet as well as a la carte. Family style brunch on Fridays. Theme Nights are: "2000 Nights", an Oriental evening every Saturday; "Chef's Catch", a seafood buffet every Sunday and the popular "Bella Italia" every Monday.

LA PATISSERIE: Watch the world go by while sampling from among a selection of delicious cakes, pastries, ice-creams, mouth watering savouries and exotic juices. Pianist in the evenings. Telephone: 2530000.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Al Salamiyah
Arabic film
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Meraa Suhaag
Fahadhel Open
Waqi Ki Awaz
Fahadhel
C.O.D.
Al Jahra
Rage
Granada
Heart Beeps

Salaibikhat
Hard Ticket To Hawaii
Jeeb
Baro Bhai
Almudi Drive-in
Dead End City

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.22 am
Zuhr	11.44
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.37
Isha	8.05

Cosmos Summer Nite

KUWAIT COSMOS successfully launched their maiden event 'Cosmos Summer Nite' recently at the Hunting and Equestrian Club. A record capacity crowd stormed a so-called event of the decade. Music was catered by the leading band of Kuwait 'The Hurricane' and the band of the future 'The Equalisers' who are a group of school going kids but made professional music, kept the crowd on their feet from dusk to dawn.

Angie Almeida and Elias Santimano were the duel compere of the evening who kept the crowd updated of the happenings. Every minute of the event prizes kept pouring in. Cosmos Hockey Club re-wrote history in Kuwait where show-hiz is concerned by eradicating the kings and queens contest and introducing for the people a hat competition. Every table were given the material to design their own hat and it turned out to be fantastic and talented, kept the crowd and judges simply impossible to pick the winner.

Other highlights of the evening were the Cosmos Summer Nite special, ballroom competition and novelty dance. Towards the closure a surprise by Suleiman Abdulkarim agents for Indian basmati rice and Al Wazzan (Swao tea) distributed 2 kgs of rice packets and a box of tea for each and every guest who attended the show.

Timothy Fortes, the president of Kuwait Cosmos concluded the show with a vote of thanks. As a token of remembrance Kuwait Cosmos launched a colourful souvenir and distributed to each and every invited guest, donors, sponsors and advertisers. Lucky winners were gifted with valuable prizes.

Kuwait Cosmos extends their thanks sponsors and advertisers.

Anti-smoking seminar

KUWAIT. Kerala Cultural Congress (KCC) are organising a seminar on anti-smoking and cancer prevention on the occasion of the "World No Tobacco Day". The seminar, "Smoking and its hazardous effect" will be presented by Dr Hussain A. Al Mumen, secretary-general of Kuwait Society for Smoking and Cancer Prevention, and Dr Farouk Al Sa'ed, head of acupuncture clinic Kuwait.

The seminar will be held on Friday June 1, 1990 at the School Health Department, Dhiyahat, Abdullah Al Salem, Riyadh Street. All are welcome to attend. For more details please call secretary Raju Varghese Vem money on 4311289.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
9.45 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Daily Arabic serial
11.30 Cultural film
12.00 Weekly local serial
12.30 News in brief and closedown

Evening

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.30 Cartoon serial
5.00 Mama Aneesa and children
5.30 Public announcements
6.00 Daily Arabic serial
7.00 Songs
7.15 Holy Quran and Science
8.00 International Circus
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Local weekly programme: Moody Evening
10.15 Daily Arabic serial
11.00 A special programme on Kuwait Award winners
12.00 News in brief
12.05 World Today via Satellite and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 The Littles. A cartoon series for children
6.30 Animals of Africa. "Pelicans and Paradise Catchers". A look at animals and birds of prey in Africa.
7.00 Roving Report. A weekly round up of local, Arab and international news.
7.30 Charles in Charge. Charles prevents his two sisters from going out at night. His

grandfather suggests he accompany with them.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Around the World. A variety of topics, incidents and events from all over the world.
9.00 Equalizer. "17 Zebra". A doctor's assistant is suspected of injecting addicted people with lethal injections... McCall has to prove it.
10.00 Family Matters. "Straight A's". The children's results were excellent. The family starts discussing their move to university.
10.30 A classic colour film. "Edge of the City". Starring: Sidney Poitier, John Cassavetes. Racial tensions lead to tragedy in the railroad yards of New York's waterfront.
12.00 News in Brief.
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite



The Ambassador of Norway to Kuwait, Hans Wilhelm Longva, on Saturday hosted a reception at the SAS Hotel on the occasion of the Norwegian Constitution Day. A large number of diplomats and Kuwaiti officials attended. Left: Ambassador Longva welcomes guest; right: some of the guests.



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Profit leap for Citibank

DUBAI, May 20, (Reuters). Citibank, the only surviving operating US commercial bank in the United Arab Emirates, reported a leap in profits in calendar 1989 in line with a general economic improvement in the region.

Net profit rose to 12 million dirhams (\$3.3 million) from 5.3 million (\$1.4 million), a bank spokesman said today. Customer deposits rose to one billion dirhams (\$272 million) from just under one billion.

Citibank is the only US bank left in the UAE following a shake-out in the mid-1980s when a collapse in the oil price sent local economies into deep recession and forced many foreign banks, particularly aggressive lenders, to shut up shop.

Citibank UAE's better performance was largely due to a big improvement in payments due from other banks, also reflecting the improved economic trend.

A small three million dirhams (\$800,000) was added to loan loss provisions bringing the total reserves for bad debt to 105 million (\$28.6 million).

NYK expands Middle East operations

JAPAN'S foremost shipping company, Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK), is set to expand its operations in the Middle East next month (June) with a scheduled call at Jebel Ali port by one of its vessels.

A container ship, part of the Oasis Container Consortium of which NYK is a main principle, will call at Jebel Ali following its scheduled stop at Port Rashid in Dubai, in response to a growing demand for shipments from Japan and the Far East.

The demand has grown out of the increasing number of Japanese companies which have established distribution centres in the Jebel Ali free zone adjacent to the port. Citizens — the world's largest watch manufacturer — recently became the eighth Japanese company to stake a claim to Jebel Ali.

The move bodes well for Gulf Agency Company — the Dubai shipping conglomerate — which acts as NYK's local agents. In response to a 25 per cent increase in its business at the port, GAC earlier this year established a permanent base in Jebel Ali.

KD market quiet

KUWAIT, May 20, (Reuters). The Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market was basically quiet today, although some business was seen in short dates, dealers said.

Overnight dealt at 8-3/4 per cent, while tomorrow/next was quoted at 8-7/8 8-4/4, spot/next at 8-7/8 8-5/8, and one week at 8-5/8 8-3/8. The market continued to show little interest in fixed dates, and rates were largely unchanged, they said, but an easing in rates was expected ahead of the monthly payment of government salaries.

The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.29069/70 to the dollar.

Pandey to address NRIs in Kuwait

T.N. Pandey, chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), government of India, will address NRIs in Kuwait on May 22 at 7 pm in the Indian embassy hall. The meeting is being organised by the NRI Investors' Forum, Kuwait. All are cordially invited, according to the Indian embassy press release.

Unity deals heavy blow to E. German farmers

EAST BERLIN, May 20, (Reuters). In battery farms all over East Germany, hundreds of thousands of pigs wait penned up in wire cages for a butcher's knife that never arrives.

The country's collective farms are stockpiling about 30 million eggs they cannot sell.

And vegetable growers have destroyed whole crops of leeks and other spring produce rather than let them rot in warehouses.

The reason "since the opening of the borders last year and the first stirrings of free trade, a flood of imports from the West has simply swept the market."

East Germany's unwieldy centralised farming system was unable to keep pace.

"Our own products, even when they are of similar standard, are just not selling any more," Agriculture Minister Peter Pollack said.

Farmers are distressed by the rapid transition to a market economy their political masters have imposed.

Like millions of their compatriots, many fear they will lose their land and livelihood after the economies of the two Germanys formally merge on July 2, with the West German mark the official currency.

Their worries look well founded. Pollack has predicted that a fifth of East Germany's 4,500 farms will be forced to close and about half will have to restructure with government aid.

The minister also expects about half

of the country's 800,000 farmers to lose their jobs in the next five years.

But what worries farmers the most is that, in the confusion and speed of the unification process, they have no idea what will happen to them from one week to the next.

"Farmers and smallholders must be informed about ground rules for their work, such as taxes, subsidies, development grants, minimum prices and quotas," a statement by leading farmers' associations said this week.

The statement also complained that farmers had no idea whether their state-owned collectives would be sold off and if so to whom, if they would have to pay rent, or what interest rate they would have to repay debts at.

The farmers have attracted much public sympathy — in East Germany's local elections on May 6, farmers' groups took about six per cent of the vote.

Asked at a news conference to specify how things would unfold after monetary union, Pollack acknowledged: "We have no experience of how these things develop."

"Everyone has to think harder how to market their products," he added, but gave few suggestions.

What Pollack has done is to introduce strict licensing of imported food to protect domestic markets. Foreign companies are banned from trading in areas where East Germany is self-sufficient, such as dairy products

and flour.

They are, however, allowed to import items like aubergines or oranges — exciting novelties in a country notoriously lacking in a wide variety of fruit or vegetables.

But the farmers complain that these measures, brought in earlier this month, have not worked. "Sites are still packed with pigs, cattle and milk still undersold. The egg mountain hasn't stopped growing and vegetables have to be destroyed or ploughed over," the statement said.

East Germans, long deprived of many consumer goods, have gone on a buying craze for anything Western — even for things as simple as yoghurt or biscuits which were always readily

available.

As a result, East German products do not stand much of a chance.

"All people are interested in is the West, the West, the West, that's all you hear about," one disgruntled farmer told state television.

East Germany also has a long way to go to restructure a sector of the economy warped by the communists that ruled the country for 40 years.

Environmentalists have pointed out, for example, that there is not enough grain grown for domestic needs because fields have been turned over to industry or to build giant pig farms.

The pigs, fed partly on grain imported from the West, yield far more meat than East Germany needs.

Nazer for The Hague

Joint ventures planned

RIYADH, May 20, (AP). Oil Minister Hisham Nazer left today for the Netherlands where he is expected to probe prospects of Saudi Arabian participation in downstream oil facilities, informed sources reported.

The sources said that Nazer's talks with the government in The Hague would start tomorrow and would also cover co-operation in the field of petrochemical industries and a review of world oil market conditions.

The kingdom's first joint venture in foreign refinery and distribution networks was started two years ago in a \$2-billion deal with Texaco Inc. of the United States.

Each holds 50 per cent of Star Enterprise, Saudi Arabia provides 600,000 barrels per day of oil to three refineries that feed some 11,000 Texaco service stations in the Eastern and Gulf of Mexico coasts of the United States.

The Saudi leadership has repeatedly indicated its interest in diversifying into foreign refinery and distribution networks as a means of guaranteeing markets

for its oil flow. The kingdom is the world's largest oil exporter and has an Opec-decreed production quota of 5.38 million barrels per day.

In another development, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has assured Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu of continued oil supplies from his country.

The UAE President was touring East and Southeast Asian nations.

UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Dr Mana Said Otaiba, who was accompanying the President, yesterday discussed the oil market situation and a number of oil issues with senior Japanese oil officials.

Otaiba met Eiji Suzuki, chairman of the Mitsubishi Kasei Company (petrochemical group), and senior executives of the Nippon Mining Company, the Showa Shell Oil Company and the Bank of Tokyo.

Separately on Wednesday, the UAE minister met Rieichi Hashimoto, president of the

Japan National Oil Corporation (JNOC), and Hiroto Sumiyoshi, president of the Cosmo Oil Company.

Both meetings focused on oil co-operation between the two countries and the role of Japanese oil companies in the UAE's oil industry.

The JNOC official expressed satisfaction over existing relations and urged the UAE government to continue its support for the Japanese companies working in the oil industry under JNOC auspices.

Meanwhile, the Venezuelan state oil company Lagoven plans to open a liquid natural gas project off the east coast to major foreign investment. Lagoven's parent company Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) announced yesterday.

PDVSA president Andres Bona Pietri said the project off the north coast of Paria peninsula is to be opened to 60 to 70 per cent private investment, the first such association since the oil industry was nationalised in the mid-1970s.

Nissan Motor Co.

Protecting the earth's ozone layer

NISSAN Motor Co., which launched the push to eliminate chlorofluorocarbons, is actively involved in developing environmentally friendly vehicles. To underscore its commitment, Nissan has displayed a methanol-powered Sunny, currently on loan to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of the EPA's Earth Day Open House. Nissan will also exhibit the prototype of a clean-burn, multi-fuel gas turbine engine.

"At Nissan we believe environmental protection ranks as one of the most important requirements auto engineers must address," said Takeshi Tanuma, president, Nissan Research and Development, Inc. "Nissan is vigorously moving ahead on a broad range of environmentally-related research activities. Through these efforts we aim to provide customers with vehicles that are cleaner, quieter, safer."

Highlights of Nissan's involvement in the EPA open house activities include:

■ Methanol-fuelled Sunny

■ Cut-away model of methanol-capable engine

■ Cut-away of ceramic gas turbine engine

Background Nissan Environmental technical activities: 1. Protecting the earth's ozone layer; 2. Measures to slow global warming; 3. Purifying exhaust gas emissions; 4. Measures against acid rain.

Alternative energy sources: 1. Methanol engine research and development; 2. Electric vehicles research and development; 3. Ceramic gas turbine research and development.

Though a long road lies ahead, Nissan is dedicated to further R&D in the application of automotive ceramics.

Polish entrepreneurs hunt gasoline in Europe

AMSTERDAM, May 20, (Reuters). Cash-hungry Polish capitalists are inundating the offices of western European oil traders with requests to buy gasoline, industry sources said today.

"There is an official agency and then there are hundreds of entrepreneurs who are trying to make a quick buck," said one gasoline trader with a major oil company.

"Yesterday we were called down five times to reception to be met by people with plastic

bags of money, saying they want to buy gasoline," he told Reuters by telephone from Hamburg.

Poland has been hit by a critical shortage of petrol mostly due to a cut in supplies from the Soviet Union.

Poland's state oil monopoly CPN said this month it was seeking 60,000 tonnes of gasoline on European markets to help meet the shortfall.

But a government plan to wind-down

CPN's control of the local petroleum market has made room for local entrepreneurs eager to satisfy queues at service stations.

"We even have poles ringing up from service stations having asked the retailer 'who do I call if I want to buy large quantities of gasoline?'" the Hamburg dealer said.

The European spot market for immediate oil sales, rather than sales under long-term contract, is conducted by telephone and telex and traders sit in offices throughout Europe.

PEPSI

PEPSI COLA PRESENTS

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EXCLUSIVE LIVE TOUR OF



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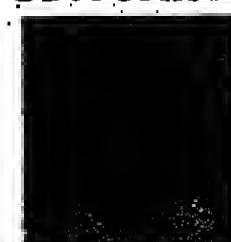
Featuring Barbie Doll "Live" on Ice And World famous skaters At Ice Skating Rink Sour Street June 18th June 24th 1990

The Premier show includes a private reception with the Ice Capades Team on 18th June 1990 Limited seats available Reception: 7:30 pm show: 9:00 pm Ticket: KD. 22/-

19th - 24th June Matinee show: 5:00 pm Evening show: 9:30 pm Tickets: KD. 3, 5 & 7 Tickets: KD. 5, 10 & 15

Reserve good seats now. KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL HOTEL 2533000/2530000

OBITUARY



Domingo Caitano Lourenco

(Prop. Popular Printing Press — Parlim)

Died: 19.05.90

Funeral: 21.05.90

Mouth's Mind Mass will be held on 22.06.90 at 7:00 pm. Holy Redeemer Chapel, Salmiyah.

Offered by sorrowing sister Ezilda, Brother-in-law Danny, nephews Doyt, Deryt, niece Diana and relatives.

WARNING



Ashkanani Travel Agency would like to draw the attention of all Travel Companies and Agencies, IATA/non-IATA, that Miss / SUNILA SANGAM Indian National, holding passport No. 496998 has stopped attending duty as from 19/5/1990 without any reason or explanation. Her residence and passport are still with us.

We warn anyone dealing with or hiding her of legal consequences thereupon.

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Foodgrain production India hopes to touch a record level in '91

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 20: India hopes to touch a record level of 176.5 million tonnes of foodgrain production during 1990-91.

Other major agricultural targets for the year include 17.5 million tonnes of oilseeds, 220 million tonnes of sugarcane, 10.5 million bales of cotton and nine million bales of jute.

Officials say agricultural production in 1989-90 was satisfactory, though the monsoon was not as good as in the previous year. Foodgrain production in 1989-90 is expected to reach a level of 173 million tonnes, compared to 170.25 million tonnes in 1988-89. This adds the achievements in respect of other crops indicate that the country has been able to build in a greater degree of resilience in the agricultural production system.

Over the last four years, India has increased its foodgrain production by more than 200 per cent. Cotton production has gone up by over 300 per cent during the period, milk by 200 per cent and fish by 300 per cent.

In 1950-51, more than 82 per cent of the population lived in rural areas, depending on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood. The 1981 census showed that 76 per cent of the people still lived in the rural areas and that the pressure on agriculture and increased tremendously.

Forty years ago, agriculture and allied activities contributed 56.5 per cent of the gross domestic product. In 1980-81, the primary sectors contribution had come down to about 40 per cent. At the same time, agriculture has to bear the brunt of trying to find work opportunities for the large masses of rural unskilled labour.

While efforts to increase irrigation facilities continue, high priority is also being given to improving the productivity and production in rain-fed areas. Among other things, the government has substantially stepped up the outlays for watershed development programmes this year.

Efforts are also being made to diversify Indian agriculture. Plans are afoot to take up a major scheme for production and supply of planting material of fruits and vegetables, floriculture, medicinal and aromatic plants. An integrated horticulture development programme for the northwest will region also being drawn up.

During 1989-90, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) released around a hundred high yielding varieties of seeds of various crops for different agro-climatic conditions. Besides, 35,000 quintals of breeder seeds of improved varieties were produced, an all-time record.

Special attention is being paid to development of new irrigation methods. Drip irrigation has made it possible to increase the yields of tomato, cauliflower and maize three-fold. A major achievement has been the establishment of a national gene bank for conservation of plant genetic resources. ICAR has also established a new institute for developing post-harvest technology which will lay special emphasis on research on on-farm storage.

ICAR has taken up soil mapping of India, which will help recommending appropriate technologies for different areas based on soil and agro-climatic characteristics.

France's Attali to head East Europe bank

PARIS, May 20. (Reuters): French presidential adviser Jacques Attali was chosen yesterday to head a new development bank to revive the economies of Eastern Europe, and London was picked as its home, delegates said.

But the Netherlands and Belgium, furious at what they saw as a behind-the-scenes deal by the big powers, refused to accept majority vote at a meeting and said they might not sign the bank's statutes at a Paris ceremony set for May 29.

"It was not a formal vote," Dutch Finance Ministry spokesman Jaap Weeda said of the count, which saw

Attali and London selected by wide margins.

Asked whether the Netherlands, which championed Amsterdam and former Dutch finance minister Onno Ruding, would join the bank, Weeda replied: "That depends. We have 10 days to think over our position."

The squabbling was an inauspicious birth for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), conceived to help the economies of Eastern Europe rise from the ashes of 40 years of central planning.

Smaller countries of the European Economic Community (EEC) were

angered by a Franco-British deal struck earlier this month, with the consent of Italy and West Germany, to divide the spoils of the bank.

Weeda said the resistance of the Dutch and the Belgians sent an important message. "A protest now and then puts a limit on the power of the big nations," he said.

Cees Maas, treasury director at the Dutch Finance Ministry, went further. The head of the bank should be chosen for his talents and not as a result of horse-trading, he told reporters.

A senior French official, however, said the vote was taken only after

exhaustive debate among the bank's 42 shareholders on the best way to proceed.

"We reflected for a long time, and when we voted there was a clear majority in the first round," he said.

Attali, special adviser to President Francois Mitterrand, won 32 of the 42 votes in a secret ballot, representing 86 per cent of the voting power weighted by capital contributions, while Ruding received only eight votes, delegates said.

The two EEC institutions participating in the bank, the European Commis-

sion and the European Investment Bank, abstained because of the divisions among the 12 EEC members.

In the ballot on the bank's headquarters, London won 23 votes representing 71 per cent of the capital, delegates said.

Copenhagen and Amsterdam received five votes each, Vienna and Ljubljana in Yugoslavia got two, and there was one vote for Prague and Dublin. Three delegations abstained.

Attali first came up with the idea for the bank late last year as the decay of the East bloc gathered pace, and he was always favoured to be its first head as a reward for getting the agency off the

drawing board in a relatively short time.

"Many people shared the feeling that France should get something out of this," a Nordic delegate said.

Experts will start work today drafting the bank's rules and regulations and plotting how best to help Eastern Europe review its moribund economies.

Delegates have set a deadline of March 1991 to achieve the ratifications, by parliaments speaking for two-thirds of the voting power, needed for the bank actually to start lending.

Japan's trade surplus plunges

Capital investment likely to rise 13.1 pc

TOKYO, May 20. (UPI): Corporate capital investment is expected to rise 13.1 per cent this year despite the recent slump of financial markets and rising interest rates, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry reported yesterday.

The ministry, citing a report prepared by its Industrial Structural Council, said the private sector's appetite for larger production and research capacity remains quite acute.

The ministry said the report was based on a survey conducted recently on 1,466 major corporations.

The survey showed that the electric power industry will increase capital spending by 10.6 per cent this year, the ministry said.

It said steelmakers, oil refiners, petrochemical companies, machinery makers and automakers also plan to make robust capital investment this

year.

The ministry said investment in research and development showed continued strength.

Japan's imports contracted in April gained 4.0 per cent over a year ago to \$16.15 billion, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry reported yesterday.

The ministry said export contracts were valued at \$20.34 billion, down 7.2 per cent, marking the seventh consecutive year-to-year fall.

Imports of raw materials such as crude oil and iron ore soared while those of meat, soy beans, textiles and steel products declined, the ministry said.

Imports of cars and electronic office equipment also increased sharply, it said.

The ministry said imports from North America increased 3.6 per cent while those from the European Economic Community and West Asia continued to expand.

Paced by a sharp fall in its imbalance with the United States, Japan's global merchandise trade surplus in April plummeted 51.4 per cent from a year ago to \$3.54 billion, the Finance Ministry reported yesterday.

The ministry in a preliminary report said Japan's surplus with the United States plunged 46.2 per cent to \$2.451 billion.

"The trade picture in April was characterised by a substantial decrease in exports of automobiles and steel and a steady increase in imports of finished products," said a ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Particularly notable was a sharp decrease in exports of automobiles as a result of expanding local production," the official said.

The ministry said Japan's exports declined 5.8 per cent from a year ago to \$21.865 billion while imports gained 15.0 per

cent to 18.325 billion, producing a \$3.54 billion surplus.

Japan's exports to the United States fell 15.1 per cent to \$6.723 billion while its imports soared 26.8 per cent to \$4.272 billion, the ministry said.

Japan's trade with the United States accounts for nearly 30 per cent of its global trade. Its surplus in April accounted for 69.2 per cent of the total imbalance.

The ministry official said Japan's imports in April last year were substantially low in the wake of a sharp growth in March ahead of the introduction of Japan's first sales tax.

The uniform 3.0 per cent sales tax on most goods and services was enforced in April last year, replacing the old commodity tax.

The official said the recent pattern of slow exports and robust imports has taken root and the trend is expected to continue for some time.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD rate higher against the dollar

Kuwaiti dinar
BASED on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate traded higher against the dollar ending the week at 290.56 fils compared with its week before last closing of 291.23 fils. The KD traded lower against the pound sterling ending the week at 489.24 fils compared with its week before last closing of 488.38 fils.

The KD was higher against the DM ending the week at 177.38 fils compared with its week before last closing of 178.34 fils.

The KD was also higher against the SFR ending the week at 208.17 fils compared with its week before last closing of 208.24 fils. The KD was higher against the Canadian dollar ending the week at 247.59 fils compared with its week before last closing of 249.36 fils.

The KD was lower against the Australian dollar ending the week at 221.04 fils compared with its week before last closing at 220.39 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market review.

The KD was higher against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 433.03 fils compared with its week before last closing of 434.02 fils. The KD traded higher against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market rates, short term interbank offer rates, traded slightly higher compared to their previous rates. One month and 3 months rates traded around 8.62 per cent - 8.81 per cent range compared to 8.38 per cent - 8.81 per cent range the week before last. On the other hand, both 6-month and 12-month rates traded within a narrow range at 8.81 per cent - 8.87 per cent range compared to 8.81 per cent - 8.93 per cent range the week before last.

As for Treasury Bills, the CBK announced two new separate T-Bills issues, the first is 3-month T-Bill issue No. (120) of KD75 million, with effective and maturity dates of May 23 and August 22, 1990, respectively. The second issue is 6-months T-Bill issue No. (121) of KD75 million with effective and maturity dates of May 23 and Nov 21, 1990 respectively.

World stock markets

Wall Street stock prices advanced last week on news that April's consumer price index had risen only 0.2 per cent and on active buying related to stock index arbitrage, but eased on profit-taking, soft bond prices and selling related to the expirations of May stock index futures and options. The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2821, reached a high of 2832, before closing lower at 2820, but recorded a gain of 18 points over the previous week's closing at 2802.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange fluctuated last week, moving higher in response to Wall Street trend and indications that Britain was easing its stance on the EMS and its exchange rate mechanism. However, prices retreated in response to an easier Wall Street, and a narrowing of the FTSE index futures premium to 28-29 points from 60 points. The FTSE-100 opened the week at 2214, and closed higher at 2269, recording a gain of 91 points over the previous week's closing at 2178.

Share prices on the Tokyo Stock Market fluctuated last week, moving higher on a stronger yen, and easing slightly on concern that Japanese interest rates may remain high. The 225-share Nikkei index opened the week at 32,305 and closed higher at 32,013, recording a gain of 501 points over the previous week's closing of 31,512.

US dollar

The US dollar firmed earlier in the week against most major currencies, and ended mixed, easing against the mark, but rising against the yen.

The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) voted 9-2 at its March 27 meeting to keep monetary policy steady, with a neutral bias towards future changes. The FOMC also kept its fed funds reference range at 6-10 per cent. The FOMC min-

utes showed that the economy picked up steam from the sluggish rate in the final quarter of 1989 and expressed a great deal of concern about the apparent lack of improvement in the underlying rate of inflation.

Recent US data showed that the manufacturing sector was not rebounding. Industrial production fell 0.48 per cent in April after a 0.5 per cent rise in March. It was the first decline since January's 1 per cent drop and was largely due to a nearly 14 per cent fall in car and light truck production by US automakers. Also, lower operating rates at mines, factories and utilities dragged down the April capacity utilisation rate. April utilisation eased to 83 per cent from 83.5 per cent during March, deviating from an expected April rate of 83.1 per cent.

Pound sterling

The pound sterling opened the week against the dollar at \$1.6820/30 and closed lower at \$1.6485/95 compared to its week before last closing at \$1.6785/95.

Sterling continued to be underpinned by high UK interest rates, thus renewing Foreign investor interest in sterling denominated assets. Recent comments by UK Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major about British entry in the ERM and high UK interest rates continue to support the pound. Major reaffirmed Britain's intention to join the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System, but warned membership would not be a substitute for high interest rates, which were succeeding in curbing inflationary pressures, the immediate aim of economic policy. However, he said interest rates would have to stay high for some time because inflation as measured by the retail price index would stay high for some months to come.

Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 152.35/45 yen, reached a high of 150.65/75 yen, before closing lower at 153.00/10 yen, compared to its week before last closing at 152.75/85 yen.

The yen firmed earlier last week on yen short covering but eased later in the week as the yen suffered from the double digit rise in Japan's April money supply. M2 + CDs which rose 13 per cent year-on-year, accelerating from the 11.6 per cent March pace and reaching a 14 per cent high.

Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week against the dollar at 1.6425/35 marks and closed lower at 1.6485/95 marks, compared to its week before last closing at 1.6380/90 marks.

Other currencies

1. French franc
The French franc opened the week against the US dollar at 5.5355/85 FFR and closed lower at 5.5600/30 FFR, compared to its week before last closing at 5.5315/25 FFR. The first three months of 1990, France recorded an adjusted current account surplus of \$5.47 billion francs compared with 9.93 billion francs in the first three months in 1989.

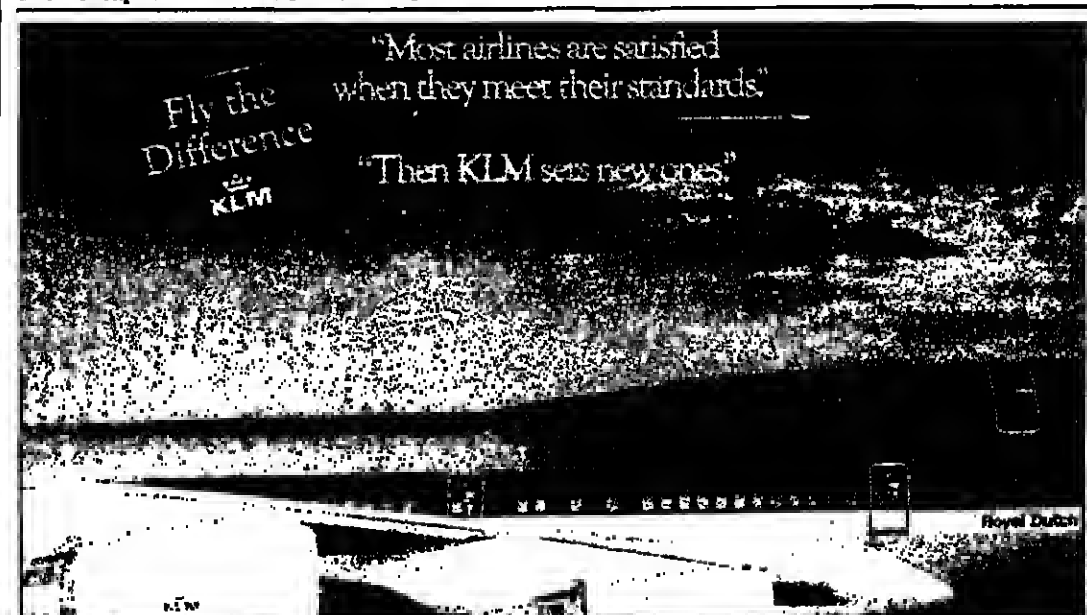
The adjusted current account surplus in March was 1.33 billion francs, after a surplus of \$26 million francs in February. Prospects for French industrial production are favourable in the short term. The industrial output rose 0.7 per cent in March from February after a 1.8 per cent February drop.

Precious metals

Gold bullion prices opened the week at \$369.25/369.75 and closed higher at \$369.50/370, recording a gain of 1/11 over the previous week's closing at \$368.50/368.90.

Silver bullion prices opened the week at \$5.08/5.10 and closed lower at \$5.05/5.07, recording a loss of 0.02 cents over the previous week's closing at \$5.07/5.09.

Platinum prices opened the week at \$483.50/484.50 and closed higher at \$492.50/493.50, but recording a gain of \$12.5 over the previous week's closing at 480/481.



KLM launches product '90

UNDER the motto 'Fly the Difference' KLM has launched a wide-ranging programme of improvements to its product for the coming decade. The programme offers frequent business travellers in particular a whole new standard of service.

Most prominent feature in this programme is the new Business Class seating on European routes. Other classes have not been neglected however. A considerable number of innovative features are being introduced in phases on both European and intercontinental services.

The 'Product 90' improvements are designed to place even greater emphasis on a customer-oriented approach to every facet of KLM service.

In order to involve every single person of the 24,000-strong KLM workforce in the preparations leading to 'Product 90', the launch was preceded by a corporate information campaign under the slogan 'Make the Difference'. The underlying philosophy of the campaign was that if KLMers can make the

difference then customers will experience the difference.

New Business Class seating specially designed for KLM has been installed on board KLM Boeing 737 aircraft, the type specifically flown on KLM European routes.

The new Business Class seat is wider than its predecessor offering business people in Europe greater comfort. Whereas seating used to be six abreast, the new wider seats are placed five abreast.

Business Class passengers have moreover been provided with their own separate cabin in the aircraft as a fixed partition has been placed between Business and Tourist Class.

A number of other improvements will have been introduced in European Business Class by July 4 besides the more comfortable seating configuration. These include improvements to the catering, new meals served on newly-designed china.

Sudan won't bow to IMF demands

KHARTOUM, May 20. (Reuters): Sudan, which owes 27 per cent of total member arrears to the International Monetary Fund, has opened talks with the IMF in Khartoum after being threatened with expulsion, diplomats and experts said yesterday.

Africa's largest nation in area with 26 million people, Sudan has an overall foreign debt estimated at more than \$12 billion and diplomats said it had not serviced its loans since 1985. It has been crippled by civil war, drought, floods and famine and an influx of refugees from neighbouring states in recent years.

It owes the IMF 870.6 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), or \$1.15 billion - 27 per cent of total arrears due to the fund from member states.

"It was given till July 15 to correct the situation or face what the IMF calls 'a declaration of non-co-operation', which means expulsion," one diplomat said. Technically, the declaration of non-co-operation cuts off all technical assistance. Expulsion could follow later.

A member of the IMF team, which arrived here last week, refused to comment on the talks. Sudan's military ruler, Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, has said Khartoum was serious in its drive to reform the economy but would not bow to IMF demands.

Foreign investors racing to take advantage of Indonesia's natural resources

JAKARTA, Indonesia, May 20. (WNL): When Jim Castle came to Jakarta from the United States 13 years ago, the city of about 10 million was everything that everyone had said it would be: dirty, crowded, noisy, squalid and chaotic.

"Now all you have to do is look out the window, at the roads, the new buildings," Castle says. "It's night and day. The difference is incredible. There's no word for it."

Castle, who heads the consulting firm Business Advisory Indonesia, is in some ways a professional cheerleader for the vast, equatorial island nation. But it's hard to find anyone in the business community who is not impressed with the near-total change in Indonesia's investment climate during the past seven years.

That change, which can be traced to a series of deregulation moves beginning in 1983, has helped Indonesia establish itself firmly alongside Thailand as Asia's next wave of Newly Industrialized Countries (NICs).

The fifth most populous nation in the world, Indonesia has paralysed the stability of 24 years of relatively benign social-

ist military rule into an increasingly diversified, expanding economy. Now foreign investors, who had waited for decades for a chance to gain a foothold here, are racing to take advantage of Indonesia's labour, markets and natural resources.

To Castle, who was recently elected president of Jakarta's American Chamber of Commerce, the favourable business climate is a reflection of sound, rational planning. But he and other business analysts attribute the impetus for that planning to a potentially devastating drop in world oil prices in the early and mid-1980s.

Throughout the 1970s Indonesia was dependent on oil revenues for the bulk of its foreign exchange. As oil prices rose the economy grew. But beset by corruption and mismanagement in its state-owned petroleum industry, the government was forced to borrow heavily to finance its ambitious development plans. When the price of oil plunged from US\$34 a barrel in 1981 to less than US\$10 a barrel two years later, Indonesia, heavily in debt and with few sources of foreign capital, teetered on the edge of economic collapse.

The drop in oil prices was compounded when the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) substantially cut Indonesia's production quotas. The nation's economic planners, faced with disaster, were forced to look for new ways in attract foreign money. "It was quite an adjustment to make, and they realised that the only way they'd be able to do it would be to switch from an import-situation, heavily protected economy to an export-oriented, minimally protected economy," Castle explains. "And that's exactly what they did."

Beginning with a tax-reform package in 1983, the government instituted a succession of basic reforms. "They reduced licensing requirements, reduced tariffs, eliminated trade monopolies or cartels that they had set up in the domestic market," Castle says. "Then finally they opened up a very wide range of manufacturing and some service industries to foreign investment."

"All this in marked contrast to before, when there were high duties, heavily protected local industries and an investment board that saw itself as a

policeman whose job it was to limit, control and discipline people. They changed that to an investment board whose goal was motion and whose achievements were measured by how much was invested in Indonesia."

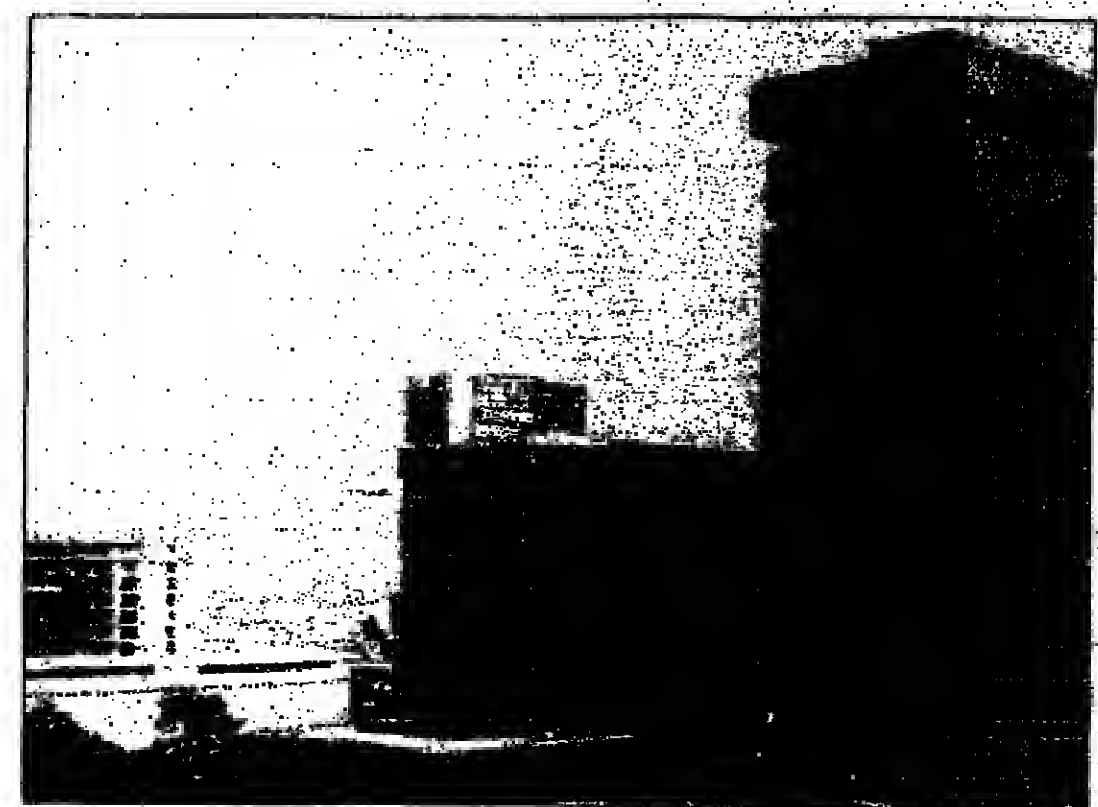
Results followed quickly. Total foreign investment (excluding investment in the banking and oil sectors) more than tripled between 1982 and 1988. But since late 1988, when restrictions on foreign banks were softened, Jakarta has seen a flood of new investments in this sector. Eleven foreign banks are now operating, and several others are planning to set up business in the near future. Everywhere one looks in this sprawling city, there are signs of the country's new internationalism.

Not that the transformation has been without its idiosyncrasies: Personal influence, traditionally a pillar of the Indonesian economy, is still valuable currency here. President Suharto's primary political liability - the burgeoning fortunes of his wife and children - is seen by some as a major liability for the economy as well. According to Irfan Nasution,

an analyst with the private think-tank Business International, the highly personalised nature of Indonesia's business world can have a stultifying effect on competition. "The big groups here get big not because of their management strength or skills but because of their relationship with government," he claims.

Nasution adds that foreigners who wish to do business in Indonesia, especially in the public sector, know they will have a much easier time breaking in if they can hook up with an "inner-circle" businessman or a member of Suharto's family. He says government agencies often act as intermediaries for foreigners looking for influential partners. "If you have a contact with the royal family, it can take one day to set up all the licences and get all the approvals," Nasution notes.

Castle acknowledges that there are irregularities, particularly in bidding for government contracts. But, he says, most foreign firms simply avoid doing business with the government, and he discounts the importance of bribery or influence-buying in the private sector.



The skyscrapers mushrooming in Indonesia's capital are a symbol of the fast-paced modernisation of the economy.

Smilg get-rich theory

Praise the Lord and get yourself run over!

By Faith Mall

WHO wants to be a millionaire? Well, just about everybody, it seems. In a university survey 20 years ago, eight out of 10 students said their main purpose was "to develop a meaningful philosophy of life." But in a recent version of the same survey, seven out of 10 declared it was to make more money.

As movie mogul Sam Goldwyn said: "A million here, a million there — soon enough it adds up to money."

But how do you get rich? Someone who isn't short of theories is businessman Joseph Smilg who recalls his first lesson in business when he was a small boy in Berlin. "A lady — anxious to convince my parents that she liked their ghostly offspring — offered me one Pfennig each time I kissed her. I accepted readily but at such a giveaway price I was driven to the brink of bankruptcy. Had I charged more, I could have made a good living."

So the first rule in the Smilg get-rich theory is: "Don't accept the first deal offered to you. Ask for double and allow the other party the satisfaction of negotiating you down a little."

Becoming a Bible — thumping con-man or the victim of a traffic accident are just two bizarre suggestions from self-styled expert Joseph Smilg on how to be rich and successful. And he says Britain could learn a lot from America, where there are more psychiatrists than postmen.

together in a new book called *Money, Sex and Chicken Soup*. Among the methods he recommends for becoming a big earner are:

● **Don't be an intellectual.** An ignorant man believes what he wants to believe and doesn't realise the risks he is taking. An intellectual suffers from "analysis paralysis," weighing up the pros and cons of everything. He will never be a tycoon.

● **Don't bother developing taste.** Nobody ever lost a fortune under-estimating the public taste, as writer H.L. Mencken once said. The successful businessman is too busy making money to waste his time on developing taste anyway.

● **Religion isn't a bad business.** Until adultery led to the collapse of his empire, evangelist Jim Bakker was being flooded by donations from 13 million viewers of 200 cable TV stations and was able to live rather well, financing four luxury homes, a fleet of cars and an air-con-

ditioned kennel for his dogs. Another Bible-thumper, Jimmy Swaggart, raised about \$140 million tax-free every year until his own sex scandal was exposed.

● **Get yourself run over.** Soft-hearted judges and juries could set you up for life. If you have the choice of being hit by a Ford in New York or a Rolls in London, go for the Ford. Damages are much higher in America.

Needless to say, Smilg's book is a send-up of all those "how to be a success" and "do you sincerely want to be rich" volumes that fill the book stores. He told me: "We've become obsessed with ourselves — we should laugh more and take life less seriously."

He advises that anyone considering a career as a postman should seriously consider being a psychiatrist instead. "There are more psychiatrists and psychoanalysts than there are postmen in America but here in Britain the reverse is still the case, so there is plenty of scope."

"All you need is a couch. You then charge people for lying on it and waffling for 50 minutes. You needn't listen but at five-minute intervals you must 'tut-tut' meaningfully and mutter words like 'ambivalent' and 'castration complex'. Don't worry that you don't know what this jargon means — Irving Berlin couldn't read music but he was a wonderful composer."

Other lucrative professions Smilg recommends: brotbel keeper, agony aunt, criminal. Criminal? "One in three British males born after 1950 has been convicted of a 'reasonably serious offence' by the time he is 28," he told me. "As only an estimated 25 per cent of all crimes are reported and as many culprits are not convicted, we reach the inevitable conclusion that — apart from you and me — everyone is a villain."

Winning the confidence of others is important, of course. Smilg remembers being impressed with a film he saw as a boy, in

which a man carried around a suitcase full of forged bills. "He never used the forged money but allowed people to catch a surreptitious glimpse of his presumed wealth. His credit rating was high and everyone treated him with respect."

And getting on first-name terms with people is essential. The great man told me: "All Americans when introduced to you for the first time will start talking to you on a first-name basis."

"This is because, by repeating your name, they are able to remember what you're called and most people are impressed as well as enjoying nothing more than the sound of their own name."

"If you want to be liked, you must train yourself to remember the names and family details of all the people you meet and to add pleasure to their lives by frequent mention of their names."

He recommends smiling a lot. "You should go around with a permanent smile plastered on your face to indicate that you really enjoy seeing and talking to the person at whom you're grinning idiotically."

But too much laughter can be dangerous and likely to lose you more friends than you gain. And be careful with your so-called wit. "If the person next to you

says, 'I didn't catch your name,' don't answer that you didn't throw it," says Smilg. "Especially if you're a woman. Wisecracking females often become 90-year-old virgins."

Of course, being a millionaire isn't much good if you haven't the social graces to go with it. That's why Smilg says it's important to widen your vocabulary.

"The English language has 500,000 words and most people manage very well with just a few hundred. I'm sure I'm the only person within a 17-mile radius that knows the difference between continuous and continual."

"Cultured people pepper their conversation with intelligible words. If they insert a superior word into every third sentence, the person they are addressing often doesn't have a clue what they are talking about."

"Introducing French phrases into your conversation — although pretentious — is also recommended. The occasional 'cherie', for instance."

But if all else fails, says Smilg, you can always change your name... although he admits he hasn't changed his. (Who, after all, would change their name to Smilg?)

Money, Sex and Chicken Soup by Joseph Smilg (Arlington Books, £8.95)



Businessman Joseph Smilg

'Strapless' director beats quota system

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): English playwright-movie director David Hare thinks the British 'quota system' for casting international actors and actresses makes for bad movies.

His current picture, *Strapless*, stars Americans Blair Brown and Bridget Fonda and Swiss actor Bruno Ganz.

Hare has a distinguished record as a theatrical producer, but he has directed only three films: *Strapless*, *Weirby* and *Paris By Night*.

He is resident playwright at the Royal Court and the Nottingham Playhouse and associate director at the National Theatre.

Hare is able to direct foreign stars because he writes his own scripts, which doesn't sit very well with the English movie industry or the government. British Equity (England's screen actors' union) opposed his hiring the trio of foreign leads for *Strapless*.

Hare, 43, tall, lanky, and with a mop of unruly brown hair, fought back.

"There's a quota system," he complained. "Unless you can prove your casting choices are international stars."

"I got Blair in without too much trouble, after all, I had written the film with her in mind. But, Equity said no to Bruno, claiming he was not an international star. I asked how they reached that conclusion and they said: 'Because you're paying him so little he can't be an international star.'"

"A tribunal was held at the Home Office and they allowed Bruno to join the cast. I got Bridget because she had just finished *Scandal* in London and was already there, something of the kind."

Equity is cracking down on hiring foreigners because so few movies are being made in England this year. According to Hare, 40 films were made by British companies in 1989. This year only 15 will be produced.

"It can be traced to the failure of independent distributors in the United States," he said. "The major distributors like Warner Bros and Paramount are reluctant to have our films compete with theirs."

"We once sold our films to the majors for \$1.5 million. Now we sell them for \$250,000."

"It is impossible for us to make a motion picture profitable without a release in the States — even if a film is made for as little as \$2 million, what with the cost of prints, advertising and publicity."

"Miramax (which is releasing *Strapless* in the United States) is the only one that still goes out and beats the drums and tries to get English films some attention."

"The entire cost of *Strapless* was one-sixth of the publicity budget in the United States alone for *The Hunt for Red October*."

"In truth, the English prefer Hollywood films to our own," Hare said. "Of the top 20 pictures released in Britain last year, 19 of them were American. The only English film to make the list was *Scandal*."

The paucity of film production in England has produced a major emigration of top British directors to Hollywood, among them Ridley Scott, Tony Scott, Alan Parker, John Boorman, Michael Winner and Adrian Lyne.

Although Hare prefers foreign casts, he does like to shoot on his native soil because of his familiarity with the locations and customs.

"A director almost instinctively knows his way around his own land," Hare said. "But it's a different thing with actors."

"In this picture I use many performers from the British Isles, but there are barely any English actors in it. My supporting players are nearly all Irish, Scottish or Welsh. I rather like Celtic actors."

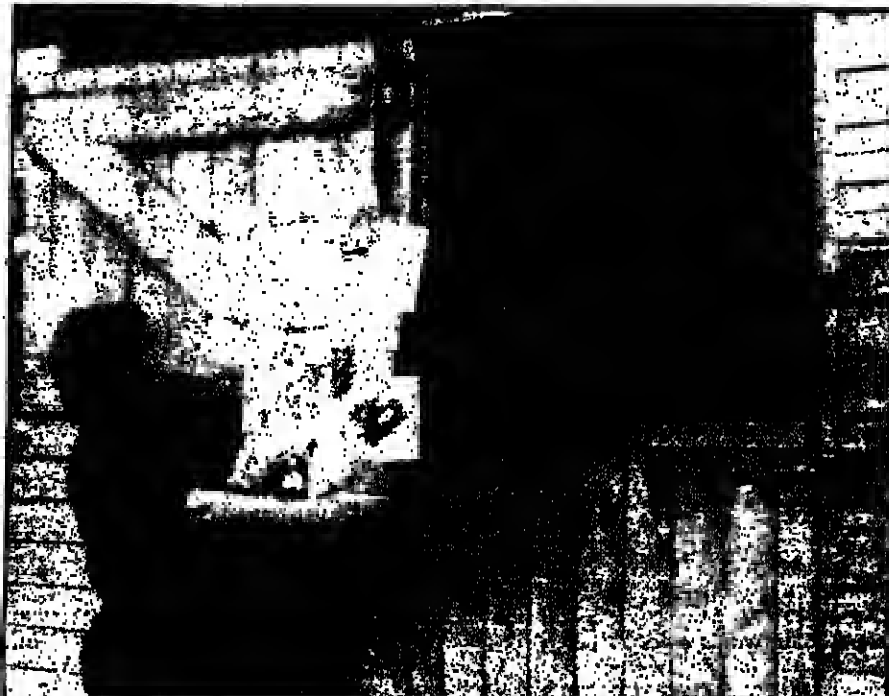
"It's a feature of my work that almost all the best performances in my films is done by foreigners. I don't know how to account for that."

"I rarely use English performers in my films because my work is passionate. English actors are rather better at hiding passion than they are in sharing it."

"Many people think English actors are the best trained in the world, but that is mostly due to our theatre culture."

"At the moment a play of mine, *Racing Demon*, is running in England with an ensemble cast of 12 English character actors. They blend well together because they've had the same training. But it doesn't work well for leading players, the passion and spontaneity isn't as evident, particularly in film."

"By and large, actors who come to me work at a financial sacrifice. In return for not being paid properly we all get to make the sort of films we want with creative freedom. It helps that there is comparatively little at stake."



Quasar's "get well soon" cards have been pinned up where she can see them... on her stable door.

'Horse power' to keep the peace

By Frances Hubbard

QUASAR batted her silky black eyelashes, flicked her mane and delicately stretched out her lips for a lump of sugar. The four-year-old police mare was in a flirtatious mood.

Yet only weeks earlier, Quasar was injured in the chaos of the London Poll Tax riot, when she slipped amid the Trafalgar Square mob and crashed down on shards of broken glass. She needed six stitches to close the wound in her chest and her knees and flank are still scarred by raw-looking cuts.

She had only six months experience on patrol and it was her first contact with demonstrators. But, undaunted, Quasar would be back on her old beat within days — after a little more care from the tender hands of her Metropolitan

police minders. Her rider, P.C. Nick Pearce, had already returned to work.

Quasar has spent her recuperation at the Met's Mounted Police HQ, Imber Court, surrounded by 59 other horses and the prime, tree-lined streets of suburban Surrey.

Chief Inspector Alan Bingle, the Met's head equestrian instructor, has kept an expert eye on Quasar's progress — and encouraged her recovery by passing on the stacks of "get well soon" cards sent to her by the sentimental British public.

The Chief Inspector, who looked every inch the horseman in his country khaki "civies", has a particularly soft spot for Quasar. "She's a bright little madam," he told me as he stroked her on the nose.

"Her stitches are out now and she'll be back



Quasar takes a turn round the paddock under the guidance of stable maid Roz Holder.



Chief Inspector Alan Bingle with 20-year-old York, one of Imber Court's oldest horses.

on top form once the skin over her wounds hardens up. At the moment, she's bursting open the cuts on her knees every time she exercises.

"There were 22 horses hurt in the riot and she's the only one we had to keep her longer than two days. She was fairly lucky to get away with what are basically minor injuries. It could have been much more serious if she'd fallen differently and the glass had stabbed a vital organ."

"Personally, I don't think she was stabbed or hit deliberately. Most people with any sense have too much respect for the size of horses to get that close. They're one of the strongest animals — pound for pound — in the world and an accidental flick from their hooves can be very nasty."

After the Poll Tax riot, some people claimed the presence of police horses added extra tension to the crowd. Chief Inspector Bingle admits that mounted police can be an awesome sight.

"Of course, we're very careful about the effects horses have on large gatherings," he said. "They can be intimidating but that's not why we use them. A man on a horse can see much further and move much faster than a man on the ground, which gives him a big advantage in controlling crowds."

"But horses are most useful on the edge of a group. Any closer and they run the risk of being hit by flying missiles, or just being jostled until they slip — like Quasar was."

Police horses do have the option of wearing bullet-proof plastic face guards and lampshade-shaped foot protectors if there's likely to be danger. But Quasar was diverted to the riot from a nearby football match and she was unprepared for serious trouble.

Most magnificent Met horses will only spend five per cent of their working lives policing demonstrations or big public events. For the rest of the time they have a varied schedule which includes helping to catch flashers, chase burglars and generally keep the peace.

The "indecently paroled" have been a great success at tracking down unsavoury characters who roam areas of London's open parkland. Bingle explained: "We send out plain-clothes female police officers on horses so they look just like ordinary riders out for a canter."

"One of them was investigating a case in some woods a few miles away, where a man was running around in gym-shoes and nothing else, exposing himself to other women riders. Our girl managed to find him — or rather, let herself be found — then have him carted off to the safety of a local station. I think it gave him a new respect for horses."

Burglaries, too, can be tackled by an equestrian task force. "Horses are ideal for letting our officers see over walls and down little back alleys where most villains like to break and enter," said Bingle.

"In one of our police areas there was a sudden outbreak of burglaries so we moved in a couple of mounted policemen. Within three days, all the problems stopped."

The horses based at Imber Court, one of 19

police stables in the London area, are a cut above the average nag. They are selected to give years of service and they need to be A1 physical specimens. The ideal is a mid-weight hunter, with a sprinkling of Irish draught horse to give a dependable temperament.

They need short, straight backs, strong bones and chests deep enough to hold a powerful heart... and they come in ages from frisky three-year-old trainees to venerable gentlemen like 20-year-old Vulcan and 28-year-old York.

The more mature horses act as "school masters" to the babies by teaching them the virtues of obedience and good behaviour... with a little help from their police handlers. After an average training period of 40 weeks, only five per cent of the Met horses fail to make the grade.

The others can look forward to careers spanning 20 years or more and a very comfortable life. The horses are given one day of rest a year, an interesting diet which includes oats, molasses, linseed oil and carrots and the kind of grooming most people can only buy at beauty farms.

Every one of the horses, from dappled grey to chestnut, stabled at Imber Court was beautifully glossy and well exercised — although some were friendlier than others. "Watch him, he likes to take a nibble out of your clothes," warned Bingle as we passed a large black gelding whose eyes lit up at the sight of a juicy trench coat.

Imber Court relies on an army of humans to keep the horses in the manner to which they are accustomed. Civilian stable maids help with grooming and exercise, farriers work full-time to keep sets of hooves well shod and the police trainers seem to be in constant attendance.

They are chosen just as carefully as the horses are. Not just anyone can become a member of the Metropolitan Mounted Police. Officers need to have completed several years with the main force before they can earn their spurs as riders. Male and female officers are equally welcome to apply (almost a quarter of the riders are women — and the numbers are rising) but they have to weigh under 12 stone if they are 30 or younger. Some middle-aged spread is allowed after that age!

"Many of our recruits have never ridden before they come to Imber Court," said Bingle. "Although the women tend to have been horse-mad teenagers, the men are more likely to arrive as novices. It takes them about six months to reach the required standard and that's pretty high."

"We look for calm confident individuals who'll have a sensible attitude. The ones we like to avoid are the show-off extroverts who start posing as soon as they climb onto the horse. They're the ones who spend all their time admiring themselves in shop windows instead of concentrating on the beat."

"There definitely is something impressive about a police horse and rider in full rig-out, but we try not to encourage our officers' vanity! They all get quite enough attention when they go out as it is."

Your Health

Turning up the 'diet furnace'

By Kathleen Silvasy

WASHINGTON, (UPI): What exactly does the word 'diet' mean? Even the dictionary definitions seem to differ: "What a person... usually eats and drinks," or "a regimen of special or limited food and drink, chosen or prescribed... to gain or lose weight."

Lying between the canyon separating what we "usually eat" from our "limited food and drink" is a \$33 billion a year industry aimed at helping us lose weight. When we put it all back on again, which most of us are prone to do, it's there to help us once again.

The problem with many diet programmes, says Dr C. Wayne Callaway, is that "34 to 50 billion of that industry is based on: cultural notions, that women should be extremely skinny and that (being overweight) is just a matter of overeating and control. There's more to it than that."

"Nearly all of these (diet) programmes are market-driven," he said. "Women expect to lose 2 to 3 pounds (1 to 1.4 kg) a week, but what can happen is their bodies start to break down glycogen and protein. And 60 per cent of the people drop out of these programmes after six weeks."

"The funny thing about these programmes is they also have a maintenance programme, which is good," said Callaway. "I say, 'why don't you just start them up with maintenance? Don't set them up for failure.'"

"The point is there's a lot of new scientific information but none of that has penetrated the commercial (diet) market."

Callaway's new book, *The Callaway Diet: Successful Permanent Weight Loss for Starvers, Stuffers and Skippers* (Bantam, 224pp., \$17.95), takes a different approach to weight loss and more importantly, weight control.

It's not a "diet," using the definition of restricted intake of food and liquid. It's a system of eating for permanent weight loss.

The major flaw in fat diets, says Callaway, is that they slow the dieter's metabolism. The more times one begins a fat diet, the more one's metabolic rate goes down.

So, the more frequently you have dieted, the slower your metabolic rate and the more difficult it is for you to lose weight and keep it off, since it becomes increasingly difficult to burn off calories.

In addition, these low and very low calorie diets, by their very nature, lead the dieter to regain the lost weight, as the body's natural reaction to starving is to binge and overeat when food is finally made available.

In other words, said Callaway, "the more we diet, the more we starve, and the more likely we are to gain weight."

Callaway, one of this country's leading authorities on metabolism and dietary patterns, has done extensive research on weight loss and weight control as director of the nutrition clinic at the Mayo Clinic, and through his work at George Washington University and in his private practice in Washington DC.

The plan starts with a six-week regime which jump-starts the dieter's metabolism to a normal rate, and it does so in a way that at first glance, might make habitual dieters cringe: with three full meals a day.

However, the right kind of eating increases your metabolism, and if done correctly, can return your metabolic rate to a normal level.

This results in a loss of half a pound or so a week. Additionally in phase two, exercise is added to further reduce weight.

This is a slow process, but it is permanent. And at the end of the dieting regime, you are eating three full, well-balanced meals each day.

Part of the programme involves determining which dieter profile one falls into — starver, stuffer or skipper — and which approach will be most effective, depending on diet history, current metabolic score and eating-activity patterns.

Starvers have a long-term pattern of semi-starvation on low-calorie diets. No matter how little you eat, you cannot lose weight.

Stuffers eat constantly, planning their lives around food. Overeating stems from psychological rather than biological cues.

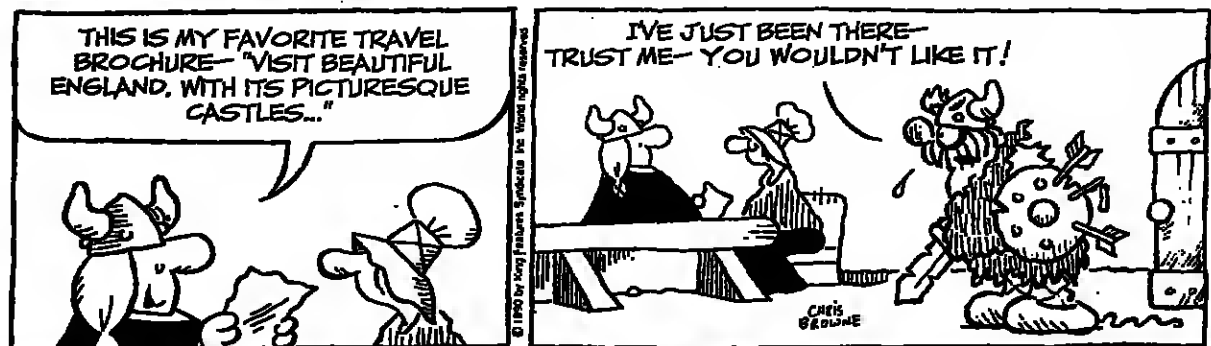
Skippers never eat breakfast, eat a small lunch and have most of their calories in the late afternoon, disturbing the natural hunger signals your body gives off.

On the Callaway diet many dieters will actually be eating more than they are now, and a few will actually gain weight as they jump-start their metabolism.

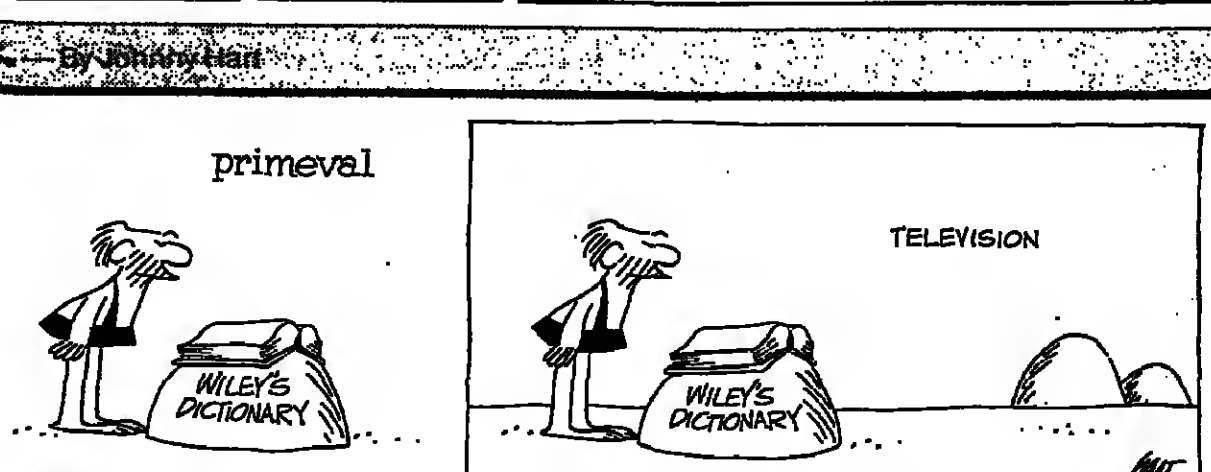
BLONDIE By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGG THE HORRIBLE By Dick Brown



THE WIZARD OF ID By I. Allen & John F. Hart



ANDY CARR By John W. Hart



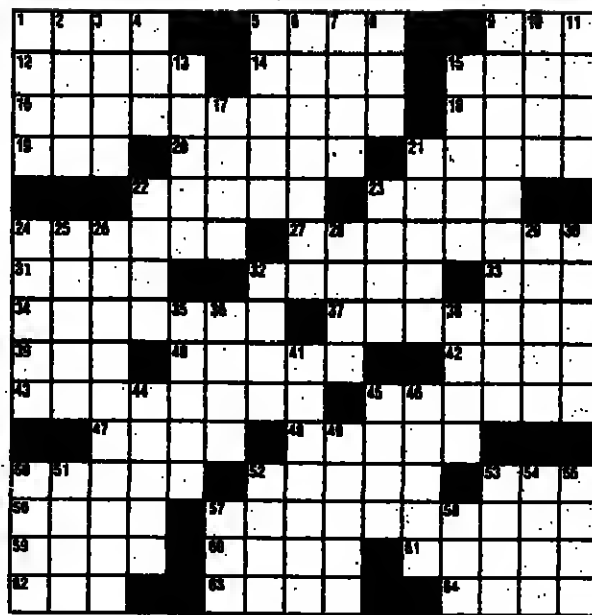
B.C. By John W. Hart



HE-MAN By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Irritate
 - 5 Celebrate
 - 9 So-so grade
 - 12 Self-evident truth
 - 14 Dye stuff
 - 15 Wad of tobacco
 - 16 Chilling reaction?
 - 18 Aply unit
 - 19 Actress Jillian
 - 20 Gogol's "Bulb"
 - 21 Sulky puller
 - 22 Garden groomers
 - 23 Financial institution
 - 24 Lump
 - 27 Moves easily
 - 31 Musical work
 - 32 Park of ballet fame
 - 33 — in the bud
 - 34 Prevent
 - 37 Finished
 - 39 Sort
 - 40 Bitter
 - 42 Expel
 - 43 Nile River site
 - 45 Hits
 - 47 Baldwin of "The Hunt for Red October"
 - 48 Edison's Ohio birthplace
 - 50 Reliable
 - 52 Title, in Toledo
 - 53 Blind
 - 56 Actress Sommer
 - 57 Ragtime dance
 - 59 So be it
 - 60 Gaelic
 - 61 Hot spot
 - 62 Stripling
- DOWN**
- 1 Loony
 - 2 Neural connection
 - 3 Celebrity
 - 4 — Alamos
 - 5 Composer of "Pelléas et Mélisande"
 - 6 As one
 - 7 Tout's offerings
 - 8 Overhead rails
 - 9 Loss one's nerve
 - 10 Roof section
 - 11 Wide-mouthed jug
 - 13 Rock's heavy
 - 15 Plansong
 - 17 Make muffins
 - 21 July
 - 22 Trickery
 - 23 Wall Street symbol
 - 24 Waterwheel
 - 25 October stones
 - 26 Waddled
 - 28 City in W. Romania
 - 29 Washer cycle
 - 30 Small barracudas
 - 32 Dame — Hess
 - 35 Diminished
 - 36 Current letters
 - 38 Knock off
 - 41 Dunk
 - 44 Marian, for one
 - 45 Wild plum
 - 46 Astor and
 - 49 Signed
 - 50 — piccata
 - 51 Soprano Gluck
 - 52 Unwavering
 - 53 On the mark
 - 54 Neighbor of Muir
 - 55 All-purpose abbr.
 - 57 Gymnast's goal
 - 58 Water source

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

PRIDE ORATE PETE
LAVE REBAR ALIA
ORES AMERASTIAMS
PERCOLATE ALLEY
CANOE TAU
ALONE EMBARRASS
ROOTS FEEL EGAL
ARK CARTE SLO
BRED ANI CADET
SEDIMENTS ALEPH
SON POSTS
ARUBA DIATHESIS
CASABLANCA RICA
EVER ADDER EVEN
SIRS MOODY DESK

GOREN

A CASE OF FORTITUDE

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J 5
♥ 8 6
♦ A 10 9
♣ A K 8 4 3 2

WEST
♠ 10
♥ K Q J 10 5 4 3 2
♦ 7 5
♣ Q 7

EAST
♠ A Q 8 7 6 4 2
♥ Void
♦ K J 8 6 4 2
♣ Void

SOUTH
♠ K 9 3
♥ A 9 7
♦ Q 3
♣ J 10 9 6 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 4 ♥ 5 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♥
The majority of tournament players have come to accept that computer deals are more truly random than hands dealt at the table. But once in a while a hand comes along, like this one from the Grand National Pair Championship at the recent Spring North American Championships in Fort Worth, Texas, that makes one wonder.

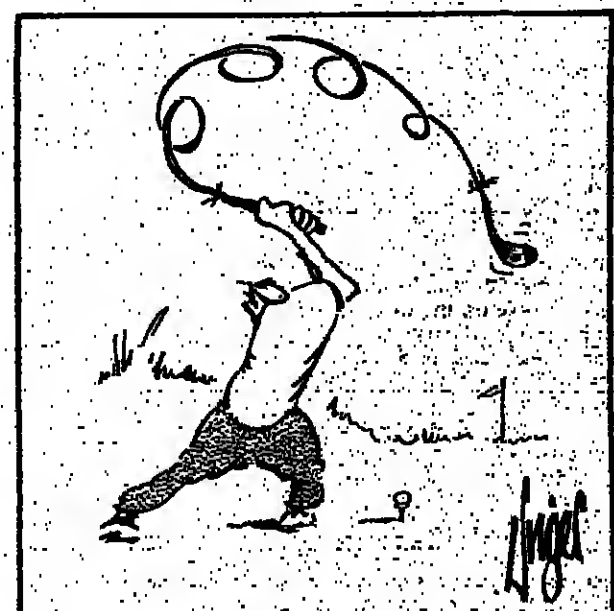
South's opening bid, even at this vulnerability, was rather light. West made a normal preempt and North can hardly be faulted for competing

with five clubs, although a double would have netted 500 points—800 if declarer misguessed in diamonds. East, looking at a 7-6 distribution and a known misfit, could only pass and hope for the best.

East-West were leading ace from ace-king, so declarer was somewhat surprised to see East discard a spade on the first trick. After taking the ace, declarer drew trumps in two rounds and then led the jack of spades, pinning West's ten. East rose with the ace and returned a spade. Declarer finessed the nine of spades and discarded the table's heart loser on the king. South conceded a diamond trick, but made his contract. Had West led his singleton spade, the contract could have been defeated.

At another table, East became declarer at four spades. The opening club lead was ruffed, and East returned a low diamond. For reasons known only to himself, South felt compelled to rise with the queen of diamonds and shift to a spade, to prevent declarer from getting diamond ruffs on the board.

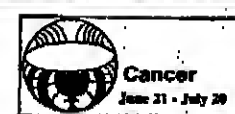
Declarer won the queen and cashed the ace, then led the king of diamonds to force out the ace. As a result, declarer lost only two diamond tricks and a trump, to score game in the other direction.



YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 19
You will be tempted to spend far more than you know you should. Cut the tendency or you will be sorry, but do not go to the other extreme either. Avoid saying anything you do not really mean. Be candid.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
Try to avoid getting into a fix or argument and try to curtail it if you do. Do have your wits about you if you want to keep out of trouble. Something that has been a problem will now proceed more smoothly. Be persistent.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
You will be able to put your financial affairs into better order. You will have a pleasant surprise, but you may also be disappointed. Take both in your stride without exaggerating either. Be constructive.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
You will have to choose between two alternatives and may find it a little difficult to make up your mind. Your lucky numbers are 7 and 29. You will have something to be pleased about but you should not be too self-satisfied.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20
Concentrate on essentials but do not quite ignore details. Persevere with what you are doing without constantly jumping from one thing to another. Have a good laugh at yourself and do not take everything quite so seriously. Be more observant.



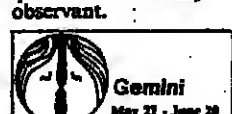
Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21
You have a lot to do but just get on with it without allowing yourself to be oppressed by what still remains to be done. There is room for a little more optimism. Someone you have met recently will be much to your liking but be a little on your guard.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
A financial deal you had hoped would transpire will not and this will put you into a difficult position for a while. An expenditure to which you had been looking forward will now have to be postponed.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
You should take the greatest of care when on the road whether in a car or walking. You will be able to make a few changes but they may not all be for the better if you do not consider them most carefully first. Avoid eating too many sweets or chocolates. Be generous.



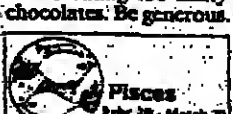
Gemini
May 21 - June 20
Something that has been held up will now go with a swing. You will be able to clear up a matter that has been causing confusion. Do not allow some small setback to discourage you. You will overcome it if you persevere. Be reliable.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
You will be able to do something to increase your personal prestige. You should make sure your partner does not feel unloved or neglected. You should not allow some small matter to be blown up out of all proportion. Be tactful.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 20
An offer or proposal should be examined carefully, it is not what it seems. Try not to become involved in something that does not really concern you. And do not mistake what you would like to be for what is. Be sincere.



Pisces
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20
You should not try to do too many things all at once. Concentrate on essentials and do not get lost in details. Avoid doing anything obviously bad for your health. Be firm.



"Maurice, love is not blind enough to allow me to ignore that tie."



"Do you sell birthday cakes by the slice?"

Keeping cool adds years to your life

ANGER, ambition and hostility can be a lethal cocktail, just as dangerous to the heart as fatty fry-ups, cigarettes and a desk-bound lifestyle. But by stopping potentially fatal emotions, people could save their hearts... and their lives.

That is the message from two experts who claim a strong heart begins with a positive mental outlook. Doctors John Storey and David Lewis have found that personality is as important as diet or exercise in staving off coronary thrombosis.

Their healthy heart plan divides people into three groups according to the amount of stress they suffer because of their attitude to life. Storey and Lewis claim heart diseases can be avoided if everyone takes evasive action specially designed for his or her personality.

John Storey is an impressive advertisement for the regime. At 57, he is as fit as a teenager and he boasts a resting pulse rate of just 48 — a respectable score for an Olympic athlete.

He said: "People should monitor their thoughts and feelings whenever they feel tense, whether that's in a traffic-jam or a meeting with the boss. It means they can keep a record of their reactions and learn to spot the danger signs when they come up again."

"There are three basic options for people if they want to avoid stress: they can change the situation — by finding a new job, for instance; they can avoid it altogether — by going sick; or they can change their attitude — by learning to like or ignore the boss."

The last option is probably the most realistic. It means people have to alter their perception of whatever it is that's causing the stress — then it won't upset them any more.

"It's a long process but it really does work. After all, tension is something which comes from inside us. If we don't feel it's there, it can't hurt us."

"Different personality types handle stress in different ways and the people most likely to have heart attacks are the ones who see life as a continual contest, against themselves and against other people. They are aggressive, usually male, and so determined to take on the world, they turn it into a hazard for themselves."

These people, according to Storey and Lewis, are the high-risk Type "H" personalities who are hurrying, hostile and humourless. They quote the anti-communist American Senator Joe McCarthy as being a prime example of an H Type. He died of a heart attack when he was only 48, after condemning hundreds of innocent people for "un-American activities" during the 1950s.

In their book *The Doctor's Heart Attack Recovery Plan*, Storey and Lewis write: "Medical research suggests that the senator was not struck down by enemies who broke his health, but by his own angry, cynical and suspicious nature. He was his own most deadly foe."

Not all Type H people share McCarthy's rather nasty personality but they do need to be on guard against the darker sides of their characters.

Hostility will show itself as distrust, cynicism, suspicion or aggression but it only



Dr John Storey has a resting pulse rate of only 48 per minute — the same as an Olympic athlete half his age — because he's learned to conquer stress thoughts.



American Senator Joe McCarthy had a hostile, humourless, hurrying H Type personality... it caught up with him when he had a fatal heart attack aged 48.

poses a threat to the heart when it becomes a habit, instead of an occasional response to an unusual event. Hostile people are always on the attack and they suspect the entire world of being against them.

Hurrying is another sure sign of a Type H personality. These people feel under constant pressure and anything which slows down their head-long rush through life will cause them terrible frustration. H Types accept more work than any normal person could do and set themselves impossible deadlines. They always run for trains and appointments and they talk fast, too.

Humourless H Types can laugh at jokes, they just find it difficult to laugh at themselves or see the ridiculous side of serious subjects. They tend to be deadly earnest about life and they can't take even gentle teasing.

Storey and Lewis advise H Types to be assertive without resorting to hostility or anger — which raise their chances of heart disease. They should keep "stress diaries" where they write down what makes them tense, and why. Once Type H people know what their problems are, they can begin to tackle them.

And if changes are rough for H Types, they might benefit from some expert medical advice. John Storey said: "Those people hardly ever go to the doctor because they think it's a sign of weakness."

"If they did, they'd be told their hostility was mobilising adrenaline in the body, which leads to fatty deposits in the arteries and, eventually, to heart attacks. It might make them pause for thought."

The second personality type at risk from heart disease is the ambitious, high-achieving Type A. "A" people are less extreme versions of the hostile H Types and they often do well business because of their go-

getting natures.

But their impatient, competitive attitude can lead to high stress as well as a high standard of living. Type A people drive themselves hard and they have little patience for others who do not work such long hours or pursue goals with the same single-mindedness.

If A Types are delayed by traffic or a train, they work themselves into a fury against other drivers or passengers instead of accepting the situation with a shrug and a "What can I do?"

"A Types often have the attitude that things are only worth doing their way. They're very inflexible and they find it difficult to cope with unexpected events — like roadworks — which force them to change their plans," said Dr Storey.

An American survey showed that 70 per cent of people with coronary heart disease are Type As. But they are reluctant to change their lifestyles because they regard ambition and hardwork as virtues, rather than potential health risks.

"I'd like to get across that A Types can still have energetic, fulfilling lives without running themselves into the ground. The most important thing for them to change is their attitude. Then, they can enjoy success without worrying about every minor setback."

In complete contrast to the A Type personality, B Types are tranquil, patient and content with their lot. They also have the lowest risk of heart disease. The secret of their good health is their relaxed and adaptable approach to the world.

Be so not waste time fretting over trifles and they are not constantly looking over their shoulders to check who has the faster car, biggest salary or busiest diary.

A middle-aged B Type man who ate,

drank and exercised exactly the same as his middle-aged A Type friend would have less than half the chance of collapsing with a heart attack — simply because he wasn't creating extra stress for himself every day.

Dr Storey believes that even people who lack the natural tranquility of B Types can learn to relax. He told me: "Stress is all about perception. To give an example, a man is walking down a dark country lane when he hears a rustle in the bushes straight behind him."

"His mouth immediately goes dry, his neck prickles and his heart starts racing. All sorts of terrible ideas are flashing through his head. He thinks it could be a murderer or a maniac! Then, a Robin flies out of the hedge — and the man relaxes because the 'murderer' was just a bird."

"His tension and anxiety were caused entirely by himself. If he'd had a different attitude to the noise, he would never have suffered any stress in the first place."

"We can all develop new ways of thinking which reduce our stress levels — and our risks of heart attack. Meditation and physical relaxation is one method, but most effective is to programme ourselves against anger, fear and intolerance — the things which send blood pressure sky-high."

"We're rather like car types in a way. The amount of mileage we do depend on the quality of the rubber, or our inherited health — but it also depends on good driving and careful maintenance. In human terms, that means looking after our bodies and keeping our minds on positive thoughts."

Warning signs

It is possible to be under stress without even realising that it is the culprit of everything from migraines to sudden clumsiness and bad temper. Here are some of the warning signs John Storey and David Lewis mention in their book:

● **"Pie Crust" Tongue:** Teeth-shaped ridges round the edge of the tongue could mean it's being pressed into the roof of the mouth, against the upper teeth, when tension or stress arise.

● **Clicking sounds in the jaw:** Continual tension makes the jaw muscles stiff and sore, often leading to pain either at the angle of the jaw or in the temple. This can be severe enough to produce migraine, or limit the movement of the jaw.

● **Headaches, dizziness or lethargy:** Hypertension — or high blood pressure — can cause feelings of tiredness and sudden dizziness. These can be the result of stress, a bad diet, or a combination of the two. Whatever the cause, it is important to visit the doctor if these symptoms persist.

● **Rapid weight loss or gain:** Can mean sudden food cravings, or loss of appetite, due to tension. Depending on personality type, people use food either as a comfort or completely lose their appetite when they are under stress.

● **Talking very fast or loudly:** People under stress tend to go into overdrive when they try to make a point in conversations. They can become extremely irritable if people speak slowly or try to interrupt their torrent of words.

● **The Doctor's Heart Attack Recovery Plan** is published by Thorsons at £8.99.



Richard and Julia in a scene from the new film, *Pretty Woman*.

Heart-throb plays Svengali to a tart with a heart

PROFESSOR HIGGINS, just you wait. Hollywood superstar Richard Gere is about to take your place as the latest image-maker of young women.

In a new comedy, *Pretty Woman*, Richard plays Edward Lewis, a successful business man who specialises in company takeovers. And when he meets the gorgeous Vivian Ward, played by *Steel Magnolias* star Julia Roberts, he decides to take her over, too.

Vivian is a street smart Hollywood booker, well below Edwards usual class of girlfriend. Not that Edward cares — he doesn't have a great deal of luck with women.

The two meet and, on impulse, Edward takes Vivian under his wing for a week and shows her the world he lives in — one of wealth, power and privilege.

With the help of the manager of a swish hotel who befriends her and coaches her in the ways of high society, Vivian takes to this new life like a duck to water.

During their fairytale week together, Edward — nicknamed by colleagues *The Wolf of Wall Street* — realises he is not the only one to be changed by this friendly takeover. He comes to view Vivian as the best investment he has ever made.

The film's producer, Steven Reuther, said: "Vivian is a girl who just never got it together in life. Her mother called her a 'bum magnet' because of the low life types she attracted. Eventually she believes this, so she didn't make anything of her life."

Julia Roberts, nominated for an Academy Award for her work in *Steel Magnolias*, said: "It's easy for Vivian to believe negative things about herself and

so hard to believe the positives."

"She is a real victim of time and circumstances. Though she has a good heart and plenty of spirit, she's been beaten down for a long time. As the story evolves and she discovers more about Edward, she also rediscovers her own finer qualities and experiences deep emotional and physical changes."

Richard Gere, best-known for his serious role in dramatic films like *An Officer and a Gentleman* and *Breathless*, said: "I was never particularly interested in this kind of movie before. I make no pretence of being a comedian in this at all. It's the situations in the script that are funny. The best I can do is inject some charm and irony into the proceedings."

"My character is a corporate pirate. He buys companies, breaks them up and sells off the pieces for huge profits."

"I think the beauty of this story is watching Edward and Vivian escape and expand their respective worlds. When these two people meet, they discover a new and private world of communication and love."

Richard, a talented musician who plays piano, trumpet and guitar, composed and performed a piano solo especially for the new film.

The actor is also well known for his work as a human rights activist. He is particularly involved in the plight of Tibet, and is dedicated to helping the country preserve its cultural and religious history.

He has visited El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, and testified twice before the Congressional Human Rights Committee on behalf of Tibet and El Salvador.

US labour scene 1990s

Senior employees needed and welcomed

CHICAGO (CSM): Crustia Dounias and Juanita Kraft are on the leading edge of a change in American demographic and labour patterns that should help job hunters over 55.

By the year 2000 the first string of post World War II baby boomers will be approaching retirement age. The proportion of Americans over 65 is expected to double between 1980 and 2000. That change is occurring at a time when the demand for workers, particularly in the service sector, is expected to far exceed the usual supply.

A number of employers are already gearing up.

Chicago's Marshall Field's, for instance, recently recruited both Mrs. Dounias and Mrs Kraft with the help of Operation ABLE (Ability Based on Long Experience), an umbrella organization serving 35-older-worker employment centres in Chicago.

Kraft, a former cook in a day-care centre, was hired as a cook and has been working in the store's delicatessen. Dounias, who formerly did the accounting and payroll work, now keeps time and voucher records for the mechanical services department at Field's. Operation ABLE, she says, supplied her with tips on resumes and interviewing. "I really wasn't prepared to go out and find a job," she says.

One of the toughest challenges is to convince senior job hunters, used to rejection, that they are really welcome and needed.

When Days Inn of America Inc. launched a policy in 1985 to recruit workers over 65 for its reservation centres in Atlanta and Knoxville, Tenn., its managers found advertising was not enough. Only by talking directly with senior citizens and by using apartment bulletin boards did they get a strong response.

Now one-third of the staff at the reservation centres, which had a 100 per cent turnover rate, is made up of older workers. The turnover rate among seniors is a mere one per cent. "We recruited older workers as a solution to a problem and found they were more successful — wonderful, dependable, patient — than we dreamed," says Days Inn spokeswoman Shira Miller. The chain also actively recruits the disabled and the homeless, housing the latter in nearby hotels, she says. Recently some 126 Days Inns hosted local job fairs, attended by other receptive employers, to recruit senior workers.

Atlanta-based Home Depot Inc., which sells home hardware supplies, also seeks



Marshall Field's employee Juanita Kraft works in the Chicago store's delicatessen.

experienced seniors for sales jobs. Retired electricians and carpenters make "invaluable" employees, says spokesman Lonnie Fogel.

Some companies which have offered early retirement packages are slowing the pace of departures and hiring retirees back.

Varian Associates, a California high-tech firm, allows those over 55 to work 20 to 32 hours a week, keeping partial benefits. Most workers remain in the same job, says spokesman Bob Holtcamp.

The Travelers Corporation, a Hartford-based insurer, has a job bank of temporary clerical and administrative jobs for retirees and recently opened it to other employers. Benefits are paid if 500 hours are worked in six months.

Some 25 per cent of those retiring from Chicago's American Library Association return to part-time work, says human resources director Maria Powers Gibson, who is helped in her work by an 84-year-old two days a week.

About half of the 3.4 million workers past 65 have part time jobs. Some find it hard to get anything else. Many don't want to jeopardize their work benefits.

Many older workers say they like the sociability and usefulness of a job. John Cereone, the 72-year-old director of

security for a Chicago Days Inn, says, "Not that I don't love my wife, but if I take two days off and stay home, I'm ready to climb the walls."

Old myths persist for many employers. Though happy enough to hire older workers as temporaries to skirt benefit costs, many companies routinely view those over 55 as less efficient, less flexible, more apt to have health problems, and generally more expensive to support.

Yet numerous studies and the positive experience of firms who have hired older workers suggest otherwise. Older workers may, for instance, require slightly more training time in the use of new technology but studies indicate their ability to learn is no different from that of their younger counterparts. Employers with experience say older workers have the advantage of a proved work record and tend to be reliable, committed, and courteous.

"Older people have been getting a bum rap for years," says Dr Jotham Friedland, a Chicago career consultant. "A lot of companies aren't receptive, but I think they're just not aware of what these people can do for them."

The Commonwealth Fund, a New York philanthropy particularly interested in aging and health issues, reports that more than one million Americans over 50, far

more than Labour Department estimates indicate, are eager and able to hold down a job. Data on 50 to 64-year-olds gathered last year for the fund by Louis Harris and Associates suggest that only about 20 per cent retire voluntarily. Those looking for jobs want them largely for economic reasons, but the majority already have health insurance.

"We've been through a decade of early retirements that have given seniors the idea we don't need them," notes Commonwealth Fund Senior Vice President Thomas Moloney. "We've never needed them more."

Yet job seekers over 55 will still face formidable problems. Service jobs will be easier to come by than professional posts of the stature and salary many once had.

For many older workers non-transferable benefits are another barrier. Companies work hard to keep such costs down, particularly in health care. Some have already exported a number of jobs overseas. Many prominent companies have joined the push for national health insurance. If a solution is not found, many seniors will take jobs to pay health bills, says Dr Frank Cassell, professor emeritus of Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

Romanian private eye hot on trail of mystery woman

By Andrej Gustincic

BUCHAREST, (Reuters): Romania's first private eye is hot on the trail of a mysterious woman from California who has absconded with \$30,000 and could be hiding out somewhere in Bucharest.

Detective Ionica Catanesu, who founded the private investigators' Society of Romania after the uprising which toppled dictator Nicolae Ceausescu last December, has got more work than he can handle.

The woman he is tracking owes her ex-husband in Los Angeles \$30,000 from a divorce settlement. "She vanished into thin air," Catanesu, a 36-year-old former policeman, told Reuters at his sparsely-furnished office in a residential area of Bucharest.

"The trail leads to Romania," he said. "She was born here and has relatives in Bucharest. We'll pin her down sooner or later."

The bearded Catanesu, wearing a denim jacket and smoking a strong Romanian cigarette, said the agency had 15 detectives, handpicked by him from 10,000 applicants to hunt down missing persons, act as bodyguards and collect evidence on unfaithful spouses.

Although he smokes as he talked, Catanesu said he sometimes went for days without a cigarette as a test of character. "The day I need a cigarette to keep my cool is the day I start looking for another line of work," he said.

Banned under Romania's communist rulers, the private eye business is now attracting thousands of would-be Hercule Poirots.

"Some are lured by the glamorous image of private detectives in books and movies," Catanesu said. "Others have a thirst for justice and some are just born detectives."

"Our men must know at least one major foreign language, have a higher education and the ability to think quickly in difficult situations," he said. "We don't carry guns, we just use our brains."

A single lightbulb hanging from a wire lights his office, furnished with a desk, a typewriter and two telephones. His secretary answers the telephone

which never stops ringing.

"A private investigator does most of his work in the field and I'm always on the move," he said. "We just got a request from a factory in Moldavia to send them a woman detective to catch a thief. It seems that the thief is a woman and they feel it takes woman to track down a woman."

Another of Catanesu's cases involves the disappearance of a teenage boy during a skiing trip three years ago. The police found a body but the boy has been sighted in Bucharest.

"We think the boy was kidnapped and possibly has amnesia," Catanesu said. "We'll follow the suspects until we're sure we have found him. Then we'll inform the police."

Catanesu said he quit the police force because too many incompetent people got jobs through political connections. "It made a cop's life very difficult," he said.

He then fled Romania and was in West Germany when the uprising which led to the overthrow of Ceausescu and his wife Elena began.

"I tried to form an army of Romanian emigres to go back to Romania and fight Ceausescu," he said. But the idea collapsed and Catanesu returned alone to Romania.

He says the democratic atmosphere after Ceausescu's fall has made a private detective's job relatively easy as people eagerly open up and talk to anyone who is not a policeman.

It's amazing, when I question someone they tell me much more than I ask," Catanesu said.

But not everyone is happy with the idea of private detectives and Catanesu has received threatening phone calls.

"The calls are from people who don't understand that we solve criminal cases and not political crimes," Catanesu said.

His hero is the legendary Romanian sleuth, Police Inspector Dumitru Ceacănica. "The Romanian Maigret," who was famous before World War Two and continued solving cases was the capture of a psychopathic serial killer who had eluded police in the transylvanian town of Sibiu.

MARKET PLACE

REQUIRED from Hawaii behind
Nihab Complex to Al-Othman
street, Hawalli, Nusra. Office
hours: 9.00 am to 1.00 pm and
from 4.00 - 8.00 pm. Tele
665411/422 (Off). Res. 2647521.
after 8.00 pm.

Unbridled second in Preakness Stakes

Day rides Summer Squall to victory

BALTIMORE, Maryland, May 20. (Reuters) Summer Squall, who has lost about 40 pounds (18 kg) from a tough racing schedule and who bled from the nostrils on Friday, beat Kentucky Derby winner Unbridled by two and 1/4 lengths to win the 15th Preak-

ness Stakes with a driving finish yesterday.

Mister Frisky, the Florida-bred colt who racked up a 16-0 record mostly on tracks in Puerto Rico before finishing a surprising eighth in the Kentucky Derby, was third yesterday to the disap-

pointment of horse players who had bet him down to 2-1 by post time.

Summer Squall also went off at 2-1, the second choice behind favourite Unbridled, who was 8-5.

After Summer Squall's second

place in the Kentucky Derby, his handlers announced they would not run the three-year-old colt in New York's Belmont Stakes, the final leg of racing's triple crown.

They said that decision was due to the tough campaign the small colt has been through and because New York does not allow the use of Lasix, a diuretic believed by some to prevent bleeding.

W. Coltrane Campbell, managing owner of the 28-member syndicate which owns Summer Squall, said his horse would run in the Breeders' Cup in New York in October.

"Today he stayed in the game and finished his race and kept his concentration," said winning jockey Pat Day, who before the May 5 Kentucky Derby had the choice of riding Unbridled or Summer Squall. "This is a very courageous horse."

"He's not big, he's not beautiful, but he's all race horse," said Day who finished second in last year's Preakness ahead of Easy Goer.

Summer Squall has struggled to overcome several obstacles in his young career.

Last August he suffered a hairline fracture of a leg. In February he bled from the nostrils in a workout which set back his training schedule for the spring classics. His handlers then pushed the colt to run two preparation races within five weeks of the Kentucky Derby.

"I wanted my horse to run his

race and I wanted Unbridled to run his race and see which horse was the best, and I think we found that out today," Daysaid.

Fighting Notion, a 50-1 shot, broke out of the number five hole next to Unbridled and jumped to the lead, which he held on the rail through 3/4 of a mile before tiring at the top of the stretch of the mile and 3/16ths race.

As is often the case with a tiring horse, Fighting Notion started to drift further off the rail, leaving Day -- who was on the inside by then -- and Unbridled's jockey, Craig Perret, the choice of going inside or outside.

Day, laying third at the turn, shot to the inside and blew by Fighting Notion.

"Today when he came through he was hunting for it," Day said. "He wanted it."

Perret, with nowhere else to go, went outside but could not make up the ground down the stretch and crossed the finish line 2 1/4 lengths behind.

Mister Frisky broke from the outside post in the nine-horse race and streaked across the track to run third until the 1/4-mile marker when he moved up to second before fading to third in the stretch.

"Coming off the turn... I knew it was just a matter of who could kick the hardest and I know my horse can kick hard," Day said.

"When he got away from Unbridled, he was still putting forth effort. But it wasn't like he was really digging."



Summer Squall (right) hugs the rail on the fourth turn. (Reuters wirephoto)



Pat Day takes Summer Squall past the winning post. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fittipaldi keeps pole position

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, May 20. (Reuters) A.J. Foyt qualified for his 33rd successive Indianapolis 500-mile motor race in time trials yesterday as no driver went fast enough to knock defending champion Emerson Fittipaldi of Brazil from the pole position.

Fittipaldi averaged 225.301 mph (362.6 kph) in qualifying last Sunday, but had to wait a week to learn whether the coveted inside, front-row starting position would remain his for next Sunday's race.

The fastest speed yesterday was turned in by Dutchman Arie Luyendyk, who claimed the front-row outside starting spot with an average speed of 223.304 mph (359.4 kph). Second fastest around the oval yesterday was Al Unser Jr at 220.920 mph (355.5 kph).

Foyt, 55, drove his Lola-Chevrolet to a qualifying average of 220.425 mph (354.7 kph). The four-time champion will be the oldest driver in Indy 500 history when he starts next Sunday.

Twenty drivers qualified during the overnight day. Three-time winner Johnny Rutherford and rookie Mike Groff were bumped from the field. With today's qualifying session still to come, the average speed for the 33-car field is 217.252 mph (334.96 kph).

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Hough helps Rangers edge past Orioles

BALTIMORE, May 20. (AP) Charlie Hough retired 18 of the first 19 Baltimore batters, Pete Incaviglia homered and Rafael Palmeiro drove in two runs as Texas snapped a five-game losing streak.

The only baserunner against Hough (4-2) in the first six innings was Mickey Tettleton, who singled with two out in the second. Hough held Baltimore to four hits in eight innings but lost his shutout bid when Tettleton hit a three-run homer in the seventh. Jeff Russell pitched the ninth for his sixth save.

Baltimore starter Jay Tibbs (2-4) gave up four runs — three earned — in 4 1/3 innings, including Incaviglia's solo homer with two out in the second; his sixth of the season.

Results		American League	
N.Y. Yankees	5	Kansas City	4
California	11	Toronto	9
Cleveland	4	Seattle	3
Boston	13	Minnesota	3
Detroit	6	Chicago W.S.	4
Texas	5	Baltimore O.	3
Los Angeles	15	Philadelphia	12
Oakland	9	Milwaukee	1
National League			
Montreal	7	San Francisco	4
Cincinnati	4	St. Louis	0
Atlanta	2	Pittsburgh	1
Chicago Cubs	4	Houston	3
Los Angeles	15	Philadelphia	12
N.Y. Mets	6	San Diego	4

Haynes slams Kiwis' pace attack



Desmond Haynes

LONDON, May 20. (Reuters) West Indies opener Desmond Haynes hammered New Zealand's pace attack to all parts of the Lord's cricket ground yesterday with 181 in Middlesex's first innings 332 for six declared.

At the close of the first day of the three-day match New Zealand were 13 for no wicket in reply.

Haynes, who has been in prime form for both West Indies and Middlesex this year, scored 146 of his runs in boundaries with 35 fours and six.

He was particularly severe on Danny Morrison, scoring 64 runs from the 69 deliveries he faced from New Zealand's fastest bowler. Morrison finished with the sorry figures of none for 100 from his 22 overs.

Even Richard Hadlee found Haynes impossible to subdue, although he had the belated satisfaction of dismissing the West Indian lbw for his only wicket of the day.

Middlesex's acting captain Paul Downton, a former England wicketkeeper, was the second highest scorer with 57, adding 125 for the fifth wicket with Haynes.

Seamer Martin Snedden, New Zealand's steepest bowler on the tour so far, was easily the pick of the bowlers with five for 63 from his 27.5 overs.

Scoreboard

MIDDLESEX first innings

D. Haynes lbw b Hadlee	181
M. Roseberry c Rutherford b Snedden	9
M. Ramprakash c Hadlee b Snedden	21
R. Brown lbw b Snedden	21
R. Butler lbw b Snedden	0
P. Downton not out	57
P. Weekes lbw b Snedden	22
Extras (lb-14, nb-5)	19
Total (for six wickets, declared)	332
Fall of wickets: 1-48, 2-96, 3-159, 4-161, 5-286, 6-332	
Did not bat: M. Thurstield, S. Hughes, N. Cowans, P. Tufnell	

Bowling: Hadlee 22-3-78-1, Morrison 22-1-100-0, Snedden 27-5-63-5, Priest 22-7-77-0

NEW ZEALAND first innings

J. Crowe not out	8
J. Wright not out	13
Total (for no wicket)	13
To bat: M. Crowe, A. Jones, M. Greatbatch, K. Rutherford, R. Hadlee, I. Smith, M. Priest, M. Snedden, D. Morrison	
Bowling (to date): Cowans 4-2-20, Hughes 3-1-7-0, Tufnell 1-0-4-0	

Fast bowler Devon Malcolm has replaced the injured Angus Fraser in England's cricket team to meet New Zealand in two one-day internationals next week.

Fast medium Fraser withdrew yesterday because of a rib muscle injury which has restricted him to one game, for his county Middlesex this season.

Malcolm, 27, captured 19 wickets in England's series against the West Indies this year but was not selected for any of the six one-day internationals there.

Richards hits ton off 73 balls

LONDON, May 20. (Reuters) West Indies captain Viv Richards hit the fastest century of the English County Cricket Championship season yesterday as Glamorgan piled on the runs against Sussex at Hove.

Richards needed only 73 balls to reach his second hundred, of the season, scored in 95 minutes with 15 fours and three sixes.

He was undefeated on 118 when Alan Butcher, who had earlier scored a fine 139, declared at 402 for three on the first day of the three-day match. Sussex were 12 for one at the close in reply.

England captain Graham Gooch, Richard's rival in the recent Caribbean series, was also in prime form with his third century in four first class innings this season.

The Essex opener hit 121 with 22 fours against Worcestershire at Worcester despite an attack boasting four England bowlers. Australian Mark Waugh then hit a career-best 166 not out as Essex raced to 447 for four declared.

Neil Foster compounded the county champions' misery by dismissing Martin Weston for a duck to leave Worcestershire 26

for one.

On another day when the bat dominated the ball, there were also centuries for Derbyshire's John Morris, a candidate for the England number three spot, and rebel South African tourist Chris Broad.

Morris stroked 122 in Derbyshire's 372 for nine against Somerset at Taunton while Broad scored 119 for Nottinghamshire in their 303 for six declared against championship leaders Warwickshire.

At Old Trafford: Leicestershire 318 for seven (T. Boon 84, W. Benjamin 65 not out, L. Potter 55, P. Willey 43) v Lancashire.

At Taunton: Derbyshire 372 for nine (J. Morris 122, K. Barnett 94, C. Adams 58) v Somerset.

At Worcester: Essex 447 for four declared in 100 overs (M. Waugh 166 not out, G. Gooch 121, B. Hardie 59, P. Priest 47). Worcestershire 26 for one after seven overs.

At the Oval: Surrey 374 for five (D. Ward 129 not out, G. Clinton 73) v Hampshire.

At Hove: Glamorgan 402 for three declared in 102 overs (A.



Viv Richards

Butcher 139, V. Richards 118 not out, H. Morris 73, P. Cottee 43 not out). Sussex 12 for one after five overs.

At Edgbaston: Nottinghamshire 303 for six declared in 99.5 overs (C. Broad 119, D. Martindale 73, T. Robinson 41). Warwickshire 17 for one after seven overs.

Record broken

OXFORD, England, May 20. (Reuters) Roger Bannister, first to smash the four-minute mile, watched his 36-year-old track record broken by an Oxford student yesterday.

Bannister, who clocked his time of three minutes 59.4 seconds at Oxford's Iffley Road on May 6, 1954, said he had no regrets as Simon Muggerstone finished in 3:58.9.

Bannister's original world mile record lasted only 46 days before Australian John Landy bettered it.

Best high jump

BONN, May 20. (UPI) Heike Henkel of West Germany cleared 1.97 metres in the women's high jump, the best jump in the world in this year, at a West German Track and Field Meet in Bensheim yesterday.

Florian Schwarhoff clocked 13.37 seconds in the 110-metre hurdles to tie his West German record, set at the Students' World Games in Duisburg, West Germany, August 29 in 1989.

West Germany's Claudia Losch won the women's shot put with 20.59 metres, the best result in the world in this year.

Whitaker retains titles

LAS VEGAS, May 20. (Reuters) Pernell Whitaker of the United States dominated the first nine rounds to win a 12-round unanimous decision over Azumah Nelson of Ghana and retain his World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation lightweight titles yesterday.

Whitaker put on a masterful boxing display and landed twice as many punches as his dangerous, but slower, opponent. Although Nelson was the aggressor throughout, Whitaker countered by dancing out of danger and peppering the challenger with quick, right-left combinations.

Whitaker's constant movement, backward and side to side, prevented Nelson from landing solidly and kept the challenger off balance.

Safely ahead on the scorecards, a tiring Whitaker coasted to victory over the final three rounds by tying up Nelson, who tried in vain to land knockout punch.

Whitaker never had Nelson hurt or in danger of going down by his light but quick flurries.

The judges scored it 116-114, 115-113 and 116-111 in favour of Whitaker.

Whitaker, 26, improved his record to 22-1. The 31-year-year-old Nelson, a 4-1 underdog in the bout, dropped to 32-2 after suffering his first defeat after 19 consecutive wins dating back to 1982.

Nelson, however, retained the WBC super featherweight title he won in 1988.

Strange, Crenshaw lead

FORT WORTH, Texas, May 20. (Reuters) Curtis Strange, gearing up to defend his US Open title next month, shot his third straight under-par round yesterday to move into a tie with Ben Crenshaw after three rounds of the \$1 million Colonial Golf Tournament.

The winds were strong and gusty, making it another difficult day on the Colonial Country Club course but Strange managed a one-under-par 206. Crenshaw, after a 69-65 start, dropped to a two-over-par 72 for his 206.

Left-hander Ruus Cochran, the first-round leader, went without a birdie as he posted a 73 for

207, a total he shared with Corey Pavin and Nick Price of Zimbabwe.

Scott Hoch, who fired a 68, and John Huston were tied at 208.

Strange, winless on the tour since winning last year's US Open, had three birdies and two bogeys on the outgoing nine and then played the incoming side with nine straight pars.

Dutch take last place for final round

TOKYO, May 20. (Reuters) Paul Haldan, flushed with the triumph of beating two of the top Chinese players, helped the Netherlands to secure the last of the qualifying places for the final round of the table tennis World Team Cup today.

The Dutch number one, who beat China's Ma Wenge and Chen Longcan yesterday, contributed a 21-7 21-11 win over New Zealand's Karl Entwistle today.

The Netherlands, who lost to China yesterday despite Haldan's efforts, are the eight men's team to reach the final round with their comfortable 3-0 victory over New Zealand.

World silver medalist Jorgen Persson became the first of the Swedish men to drop a rubber as the world champions finished the three-day round-robin stage with a 3-1 defeat of European bronze winners England.

Veteran Desmond Douglas gave England a 1-0 lead by beating Persson 21-14 16-21 22-20 and Chinese-born Chen Xinhua, a Newcomer to the team, looked like extending their advantage when he won the opening game against world champion Jan-Ove Waldner.

But Waldner, whose form has been patchy since he took the world singles crown in Dortmund last year, recovered to win 18-21 21-18 14-14 and then helped European champion Mikael Appelgren to victory in the doubles against Douglas and Alan Cooke.

Persson then made up for his earlier loss by beating Chen 21-13 21-13 as the Swedes finished Group B with three wins in as many matches.

Former world champions China were also unbeaten in their group, finishing the round-robin stage today with a 3-0 defeat of Yugoslavia.

The top two teams from each of the four men's and four women's groups will contest the final round in Osaka from Monday to Wednesday.

Rarick ahead

HIGH POINT, North Carolina, May 20. (Reuters) Cindy Rarick birdied six holes without a bogey to surge into the lead yesterday after three rounds of the \$400,000 Pat Bradley international golf tournament.

Rarick's round was worth 12 points under the modified Stableford scoring system and gave her a total of 19 for a three-point lead over Sherri Steinhilber going into today's final 18 holes.

Rameez takes Pakistan past Australia



Rameez Raja top scored with 68 runs

LOS ANGELES, May 20. (Reuters) Pakistan beat Australia by four wickets yesterday to tie their cricket American-style series 1-1 but again the crowds stayed away in droves.

Playing in the 92,000-seat Los Angeles Coliseum, which is more used to the grunts of Olympic athletes and hurly American footballers, the game at least earned a place in cricket folklore as the first night match in the United States.

But only 2,000 people turned up to see this bit of history.

As in last week's match in New York, Pakistan spectators far outnumbered Australians and one again most of the Americans present were policemen on hand to control crowds who never turned up.

In cricket American-style, the straight drive is a winner.

Due to the considerably shorter boundaries — and ignoring the running track in the field of play — a gently lofted shot guarantees a six.

A different batting stance is also recommended. Because of the placement of the hugely powerful lights which illuminate the Los Angeles stadium, a batsman stands at right-angles to the lights.

Pakistan captain Imran Khan and Rameez Raja proved they were made to sterner stuff than the Australians by adjusting to the conditions and sharing a partnership of 88 which proved a match-winner.

Australia, batting first on the matting wicket in the 35 overs a side game, were all out for 126 in 30.5 overs.

In an indication of the difficulties of batting for traditionalists, Australia's top scorers were fast bowlers Carl Rackemann with 23 and Mery Hughes with 31.

Australia, led by Terry Alderman's three for 14, briefly had Pakistan on the ropes when their first four wickets fell for only 16, but then Rameez with 68 and Imran (37) ensured the other Americas Cup would be shared. Pakistan finished with 127 for six in 32 overs.

There were, however, some similarities between California-dreaming cricket and cricket down under.

Several Australian spectators showed their displeasure with the performance of their team by displaying their buttocks at what they considered appropriate moments.



Dragon Boat festival

A uniformed policeman beats time as his team competes in the first Dragon Boat festival to be held on Kunming Lake at Beijing's Summer Palace yesterday as part of the run-up to the 11th Asian Games, scheduled to be held in Beijing in September. (Reuters wirephoto)

